

Tuesday August 6 1996

Table of exchange rates for various currencies including Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong, Oman, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,624

Why the hostage wives won't give up Searching for the truth G2 with European weather

How looks can deceive So you think you're ugly? Health G2 pages 6/9

Education Are A levels easier? G2 pages 10/11

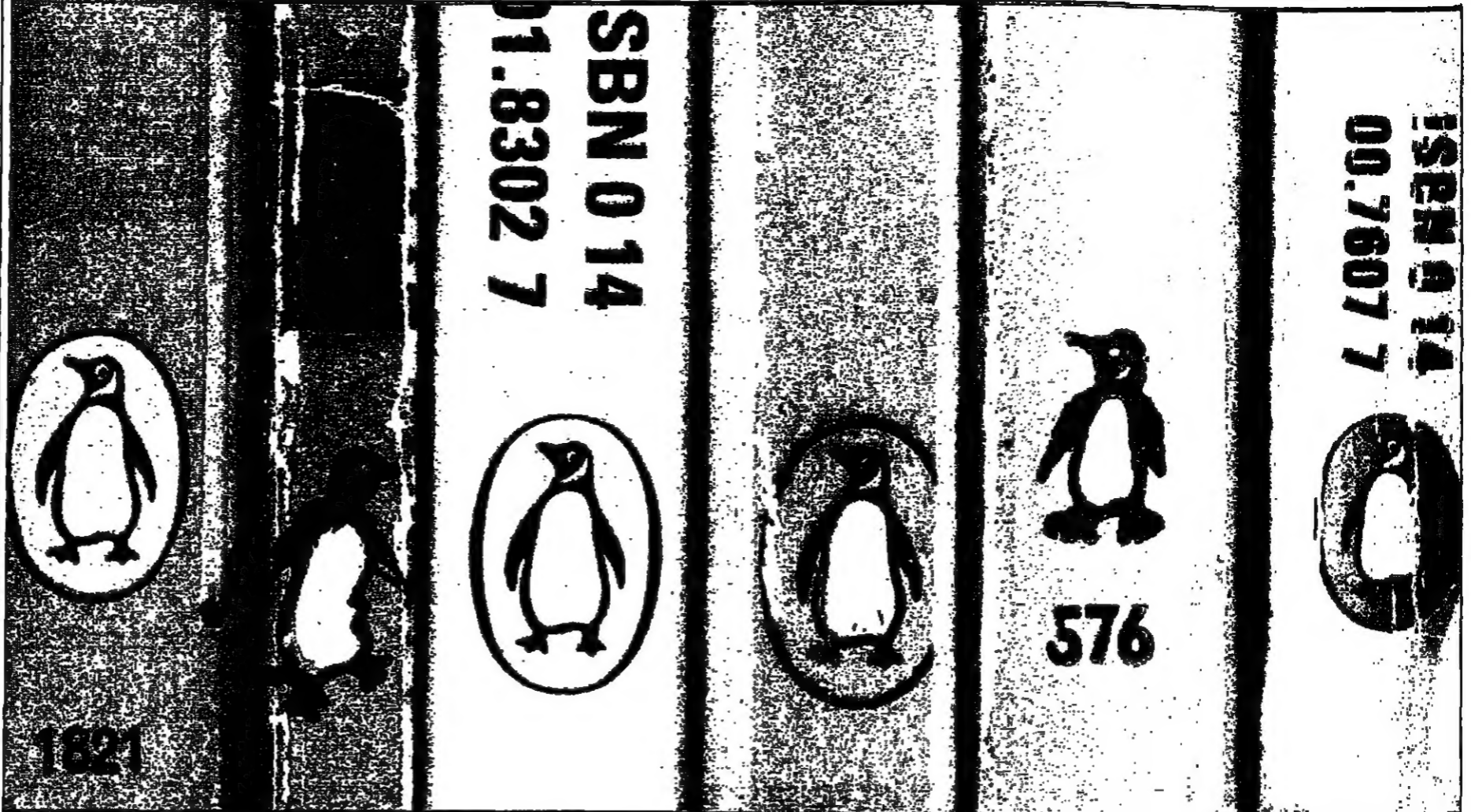
Fury at US law to curb terror

Europe vows to defy Clinton

Clinton's move in Washington, Britain's reaction in London and Stephen Bates in Brussels

RESIDENT Bill Clinton yesterday defied his allies and his enemies alike to insist that terrorism was the "enemy of our generation" and assert the United States' right as the "indispensable nation" to take economic and military measures against any state that it believes sponsors terrorists.

and the EU to decide with whom they will trade," the DTI said. France — which has far greater trade with Iran — started high-level diplomatic talks with other EU states, including Britain, yesterday in an effort to co-ordinate European retaliation against the US.



Going by the book... The world's best loved publishing house now has a 36-year-old chairman who 'grew up with Penguins'

Hollywood boss turns new page at Penguin

MICHAEL Lynton, who grew up with a Penguin in his pocket, became chairman of the world's best loved publishing house yesterday.

owned by Pearson plc, the British information, publishing and entertainment group. It has come a long way from the 1970s when, losing money, it was considered to be the home of the highbrow.

Mr Lynton, president of Hollywood Pictures, which made Crimson Tide and The Rock, said: "I grew up with Penguin books. I grew up near the Hague and there was a Penguin bookshop nearby. It was the only place I could get English language books and I must have gone into the shop once or twice a week."

in profitable authors." Mr Mayer talks fondly of the authors who bring in vast amounts of cash for Penguin — Stephen King, Dick Francis and Roald Dahl — as well as the literary heavyweights the company has on its books. He has nothing but praise for his British-born successor. "He's young and energetic. He's bound to succeed."

Mr Lynton, who was educated at Harvard, started at Disney as manager of business development in the consumer products division. Mr Mayer said: "He's someone with a fine education in both the humanities and business which is unusual."



Michael Lynton: 'He's bound to succeed'

Table titled 'Penguin books' listing titles like 'The Hobbit', 'The Lord of the Rings', etc.

Inside Millions of phone numbers will be changed within the next five years, only 18 months after the last major overhaul.

Britain Bob Dole tried to kick-start his presidential campaign with a 15 per cent tax cut promise to boost the economy.

World News HSBC, the global giant which includes Midland Bank, unveiled the highest six-monthly profit figures in corporate Britain's history.

Finance A compromise by England on money and TV rights appeared to have saved their being thrown out of rugby's Five Nations championship.

Sport Comment and Letters 8 Obituaries 10 G2 Crossword 15; Weather 16 Radio 16; TV 18

Anti-abortion group offers £25,000 to save twins

Chris Millill and Nick Varley A PRO-LIFE group last night offered the pregnant woman who wants one of the twins she is carrying to be aborted £25,000 if she allows both babies to live.

Mail monopoly broken Lang takes on postal workers after union announces four new 24-hour strikes

THE Government last night confirmed its intention of moving against striking public service workers with the announcement that it was lifting the Post Office's letter monopoly from midnight, as the Communication Workers' Union announced four new 24-hour postal strikes on top of today's planned walkout.

Advertisement for Abbey National investment products, featuring a penguin logo and text about retirement savings.

Advertisement for Abbey National investment products, featuring a penguin logo and text about retirement savings.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page.



Sketch

Rich pickings at the Magpies' nest



Peter Hetherington

TODAY the homecoming. Multi-million-pound man, the most expensive footballer of all time, arrives at St James's Park for his defecation.

With thousands chanting outside in a huge car park cleared for the occasion, he will mount a special, black and white bedecked stage in the middle of a stand.

Surrounded by the club's effective owner, property developer Sir John Hall, manager Kevin Keegan and other directors, he will tell the world, and 1,400 workers imported from the club's brewery sponsors across the road, why Newcastle United is so special to him.

With a signing-on fee of £2.5 million, basic pay of £1.2 million a year, an estimated £3,000 per match — or £5.17p for every second on the pitch — and much more besides, you can understand why.

The restless bosses of the Premier League runners-up, who have forked out more than £50 million on Britain's most expensive team, will return the compliments. Then Alan Shearer will mount another, second stage opposite the car park for more adulation.

Some have likened it to the Second Coming. "Stupid, isn't it?" smiled one longstanding unemployed fan, clutching a ticket for the FA Charity Shield against Manchester United at Wembley on Saturday ("At more than £400 a shot, I couldn't afford a season ticket").

He can't remember an event to match the return of Shearer, local boy made mega-rich who, some have suggested rather unconvincingly, wants to rediscover his Tyneside roots.

Throughout the day, and over the previous night, fans excluded from the club's Park by the club's high prices, queued and camped for 35,000

Charity Shield tickets. Some brought foil blankets to keep out the cold. The contrast between the super-rich stars and the lowly fans could not have been greater.

"It's nothing to do with Shearer," said 20-year-old Colin Pattison, unemployed, like many in the queue. "I would be here if he wasn't coming. I'm a true supporter."

At the front of the queue, Tammy Graham, aged 20, thought the club could be terribly unfair over pricing. "People who've gone for years can't afford to get in now. I suppose that's business."

Her office worker colleague, 24-year-old Amanda Cox, couldn't quite come to terms with Shearer's salary. "I earn less than half his weekly wage for the whole year," she gasped. "He'd better play well."

Newsagent Anthony Joyce was uneasy. "Frankly, £15 million is an obscene amount. A lot of people think it's a bit when set against all the cutbacks taking place elsewhere. But then again, I suppose nothing is cheap these days."

Unlike the rest of the team, Shearer at least has a clean sheet — and, crucially, is free from the humiliation of a Far East tour when an unknown Japanese side, called Gamba Osaka "cut through the Newcastle defence like a Samurai sword through butter."

Shearer is a mockery of big signings — in the words of the local paper.

Keegan seemed embarrassed. Few players came out of the game well. Many more might have to fight for their places. "I'm glad we were not playing the best in Japan," he said yesterday.

And that's the point, surely. You can make big signings — Ghinola, Ferdinand, Asprilla — but you can't, necessarily, buy a first class team. The cheque book, sometimes, has its limitations, as Sir John Hall found out last season.

This time there can be no excuses. A vast business empire is being built on the assumption that Newcastle will — must — win the Premiership. They also have to win on Sunday. And Shearer, the saviour, has to perform — quickly. There can be no excuses. It is a terrible burden to carry.

First night

Modern Hamlet's timeless appeal

Brian Logan

Hamlet

Rose Theatre, Oxford

OXFORD Stage Company's crisp new Hamlet is set in 1966 to give it, we are told, immediate appeal. There is little in the look of the production to suggest our time. But that all the better points to monarchy's endemic, stultifying antiquity.

Matthew Wright's set too, a vast tomb etched in filigree gold with a litany of the Danish dead, hints at the weight of ages encumbering the players in this unfolding scene.

The production starts abruptly and never lets up. William Russell, doubling as Claudius and his incorporeal brother — one slick and sharp-suited, the other, not unreasonably, more sombre. It is no wonder Gertrude falls into Claudius's arms. Wipe the smile off his face — as his stepson soon does — and he is a dead ringer for her dead hubby.

The pair are feted by a clipped Court, all canned enthusiasm and bloodless flattery. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern represent its ghastliest excesses — precisely the sort of immaculately preened, chirless wonders with whom mum and dad would make you hang out.

On the skulduggery's sidelines, Colin George is an excellent Polonius, deploying a comic timing and lightness of touch strongly reminiscent of Richard Briers. Ophelia, as ever, is so wistful-washy she might have drowned before the show began — like Den-

mark's other literary icon, the Little Mermaid, she's wet, wet.

Ian Pepperell's Hamlet reminds us that the play is very much of our age. The diminutive figure he cuts is poignantly ineffectual, like "the glow-worm's fire", full of futile rage against the iniquities of the adult world and his own adolescent impotence. It is Holden Caulfield, pin-sized Prince of Denmark. He steps himself indulgently in the drama in which fate has cast him, while also, palpably, suffering from it — when he hies Ophelia to a nunnery, we feel his hurt, not hers. Pepperell renders this cyclone of confusion with a vivid and instinctively likeable freshness and variety. To say that interest in his Hamlet never pall — strange, yes, but true — is no exaggeration.

Gladstone once called Disraeli a rhetorician inebriated on the exuberance of his own verbosity. This Hamlet — too young, of course, to be inebriated — is at least diverted by his.

"To be or not to be" seems a self-serving digression. Not for him the dashing decisiveness of Laertes. With his taste for words Hamlet may already know that, with a name like Fortinbras, the Norwegian has ultimate victory in the bag. So he does, seizing the Danish succession with effortless simplicity quite stunning in the dying heat of some slaughtered swordplay. All eyes rest on the extinguished Hamlet, crumpled on the throne. To see this take on his travails is not to "bend those eyes on vacancy". On the contrary, we are never less than engaged.

Thousands give Royal Mail their stamp of approval

Seumas Milne

ROYAL Mail has shot to the top of the popularity poll in a survey of 12 public utilities and services published today by the National Consumer Council, just as the Government announced it is suspending the Post Office monopoly over the resumption of industrial action.

Almost 90 per cent of the 2,043 people interviewed were satisfied with the speed of the postal delivery service and 80 per cent were happy with Post Office counter services, putting the two branches of the last nationalised industry at numbers one and three in the table. Royal Mail's satisfaction rating has increased sharply since 1990 — when 68 per cent were content.



Prostitutes' services on display in a telephone box in central London. About 150,000 calling cards are placed in phone boxes in the capital every week

Prostitutes who place 'sex for sale' calling cards in phone boxes to be cut off

James Meikle Community Affairs Editor

PROSTITUTES who advertise their services in telephone boxes are to have their phones cut off in an attempt to rid city centres of their calling cards.

Under new rules agreed by the main telecommunications companies, the measures follow complaints from residents and tourists.

About 200 prostitutes are thought to be responsible for the hard core of payphone advertising in the capital, paying "card boys" around £10 for every 100 they put in boxes.

The changes, expected to be introduced in a fortnight, particularly affect central London, Brighton and parts of Manchester where card-calling is most evident.

A pilot scheme to cut the calls floundered because prostitutes argued successfully that BT was breaking its promise to provide a "universal service".

The changes, expected to be introduced in a fortnight, particularly affect central London, Brighton and parts of Manchester where card-calling is most evident.

New upheaval for phones

Running out of numbers (again)

Due to a greater than expected rise in demand, towns and cities across the UK could have new telephone area codes.

Urgent, needed by 2000

- London, Belfast, Cardiff, Reading, Portsmouth, Southampton

By the year 2000

- Aberdeen, Guildford, Spurnmouth, Middlebrough, Coventry, Preston, Cambridge, Stoke-on-Trent, Brighton, Cardiff, Bradford, Wolverhampton, Derby, Wigan

By the year 2015

- Bolton, Rochdale, Asot, Peterborough, Marley, Ivor, Northampton

Cost dismays businesses as codes change again to meet explosion in demand

Hannah Pool

MILLIONS of telephone numbers will change within the next five years. It was announced yesterday — only 16 months after the last major revision. The news dismayed businesses facing administrative upheaval and extra costs as a result.

As businesses pondered again having to update stationery, signs and computer programming, a British Chambers of Commerce spokeswoman said: "We are slightly disappointed they didn't get it right the first time. I think businesses may be finding it a bit wearisome to go through it all again."

Don Cruickshank, Director General of OfTel, said yesterday: "PhoneDay (in April 1995) created 8 billion new numbers for us and now we have to take advantage of this opportunity and develop a coherent, flexible and robust scheme to ensure the long-term availability of numbers for both residential and business users."

because we have one of the world's most competitive and dynamic markets in telecommunications networks and services. If we are to maintain our leading position, and reap the rewards that flow from that, our numbering scheme must keep pace."

Eight more codes, 02 to 09, have been added to the existing 01 code start. Under OfTel's proposals, the 02 prefix will be used to meet the need for extra telephone lines, expanding the current 01 system based around geographical areas.

The proposals will not be finalised until December, and none of the new codes will be introduced before the year 2000.

OfTel says London, Cardiff, Belfast, Southampton and Portsmouth will have to change to new area codes. Cardiff will change from 01222 to 0292, Belfast from 01232 to 0282, Southampton from 01703 to 0233 and Portsmouth from 01705 to 0235. Elsewhere most numbers would not change.

London may return to one single code, with both 0171 and 0181 becoming 020, or it could also have 022 for outer areas.

Companies based in areas earmarked for change did not relish the thought of being forced to hand over more money to signwriters, printers and switchboard engineers, to prepare for the new numbers.

COLT International, suppliers of heating and ventilation, based in Portsmouth, said: "If our company telephone dialling codes are changing we will incur some fairly substantial costs for replacing our letterheads, business cards and most importantly our product literature, which has a long customer shelf life. There will also have to be customer database updates, which will also incur costs."

Also in Portsmouth, a Brittany Ferries spokesman said: "It's going to be very inconvenient and a pain in the neck so soon after the last number changes. It means added expense in terms of stationery and printing."

EU tries to break Mostar deadlock

Julian Borger in Mostar

A SECOND European Union deadline passed yesterday evening without agreement on the formation of a multi-ethnic council in Mostar, as tensions surfaced between the Bosnian town's Muslims and Croats.

Croat police earlier in the evening EU sources say the two were released, but police checkpoints were set up along the former front line.

The stability brought in recent weeks by EU-sponsored elections and talks threatens to unravel if the talks fail and EU officials and police withdraw.

"The problem is now over one part of one sentence," Dragan Gasic, the EU spokesman in Mostar, said.

The EU administrative mandate formally came to an end on Sunday morning after two years of attempts to reintegrate the bitterly divided city. But EU officials said yesterday they felt success was close enough to merit continuing the dialogue.

In six hours of talks on Sunday night, the Mostar Croats agreed to drop their boycott of the new council, elected in June with a Muslim-led majority. But their condition was that there would be only one council meeting before a joint Muslim-Croat supreme court rules on voting discrepancies, which the Croats say invalidate the elections and the council.

Muslim leaders point out that the supreme court has not yet been formed, and they expect the Croats to block its creation, thus immobilising the Mostar council. Mediators were last night attempting to draft a compromise.

EU withdrawal technically began on Sunday, but the pull-out has stalled as the 130 diplomats, bureaucrats and policemen await an outcome.

European ruling on guest beers 'disastrous' for real ale

Stephen Bates in Brussels

BREWERS and beer drinkers rushed to the defence of British bitter last night in the face of the latest threat from Brussels to force pubs to take European draught beers.

The move — taken under single market legislation — warns of possible legal action by the European Commission if imported draught beers are not admitted.

There were immediate claims that the Commission's foray threatened both small breweries and local pubs containing chances of stocking real ales.

The Commission said: "The rule is discriminatory because it has the effect of excluding draught beers from other member states and, as such, constitutes a disguised restriction of intra-community trade."

The Campaign for Real Ale said the move was "absolutely disastrous news... it threatens the choice of real ale in British pubs. This is unwarranted interference from Brussels — the British market is already the most open in Europe."

The cause of the row is the Commission's insistence that the free movement of goods is threatened by the so-called guest beers agreement seven years ago, which opened the pub trade to allow landlords to sell one additional brand of beer beside those they were tied to sell.

The catch so far as Europe is concerned is that the guest beer must be produced by the cask-conditioned fermentation process only used in Britain, blocking the market to European draught beers.

The situation does not affect European bottled beers, already extremely common in pubs, or draught beers and lagers, such as Guinness and Stella Artois, which are brewed in Britain under licence.

Advertisement for Eagle Star Direct home insurance. Text: "If your home insurance company doesn't deliver these MOVE". Includes a list of 8 questions to ask a broker and contact information: 0800 333 800.

Staff... save... ground... becoming... site for... business... school... with... £20m... Wafie... There... lot more... stake... than... planning... application...

Saudi

Fame sol

مكتبة القرآن الكريم





Staff fight to save sports ground from becoming site for business school built with help of £20m from Wafic Said. 'There is a lot more at stake here than a planning application'



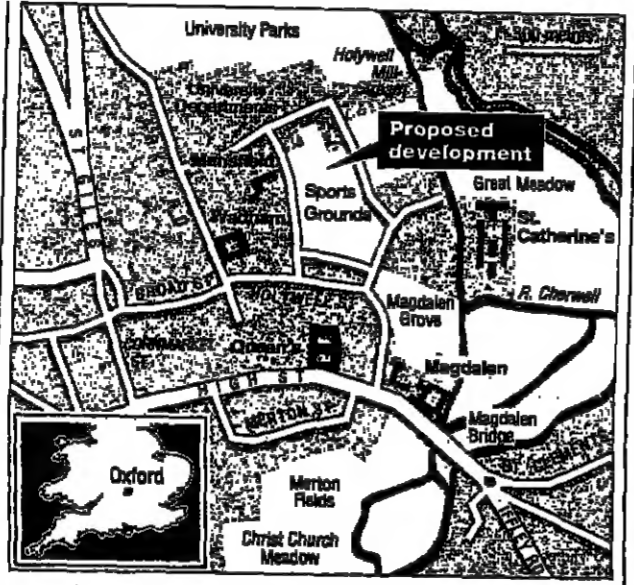
Giving and receiving: Wafic Said (top) insisted Oxford build the management school on the sports ground site (above)

RUC orders march to be re-routed

But the police decision to re-route the Apprentice Boys' leader parade, which passes through the Lower Ormeau Road in south Belfast before marching to Londonderry, infuriated loyalists in Belfast. Sandy Geddis, of the Apprentice Boys' Walker Club, said: 'It's a deplorable decision made in the face of threats of violence. We've walked that road for over 90 years and there has never been trouble. We've done everything to make sure it was not triumphant.'

Saudi gift plays havoc at Oxford

STUART MILLER IT WAS billed as the most generous gift to Oxford University in 50 years. But a £20 million donation by Wafic Said, a Saudi entrepreneur, to build a management school has caused a bitter row.



Staff have questioned the ethical implications of accepting the donation from Mr Said. A Commons committee of inquiry was told that the Syrian-born businessman was the agent for British Aerospace responsible for the Al-Yamamah defence deal with Saudi Arabia, although he denies he is an arms dealer.

The sports ground was sold to the university by Merton College in the 1960s, when the university's vice chancellor promised there would be no development without the college's agreement. But Mr Said, who is understood to give to the Tory party, has insisted on the central site. He rejected plans to use the donation to extend the existing business school at Templeton College on the outskirts of the city.

Stef Spencer, chairwoman of the council's planning committee, said: 'We will judge any application on its merits. But on our local plan, the sports ground is shown as an important recreational site.'

Fame school seeks £2m rescue

DAVID WARD LIVERPOOL'S fame school, funded in part by Paul McCartney and opened six months ago, could lose a rescue package of at least £2 million if not stitched together by the end of the year. The cash crisis is the result of a building scheme which cost £15.5 million, £3 million more than the original estimate.

'We've got to get it right this time. We've got to raise it to the sky. Lines from a Paul McCartney number sung by students at the inauguration ceremony. 'I'm glad that my film Fame in some small way inspired the notion of LIPA... This long, gargantuan, mostly uphill struggle now has come to fruition... I cross my fingers for you all.'

version and an extension is being worked out with builders Belfast Beauty. The European Regional Development Fund contributed £4.6 million and Liverpool City Challenge gave £3.4 million.

Anti-abortion group offers mother £25,000 to keep twins

continued from page 1 group, Movement for Life, which offered to pay the woman £140 a month if she allowed both twins to live. In addition, Life, the British anti-abortion charity, raised £3,000 for the 28-year-old, should she decide to have both children.

The woman, who is said to be in 'socially strained' circumstances, already has one child and says she cannot afford two more. She is 16 weeks pregnant and has asked the Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital in London to abort one of the twins. Philip Bennett, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the hospital, which has not yet been carried out.

The villagers shifted from foot to foot, uneasy. Their faces creased in sympathy. But they were silent. And when the clouds lifted, and the rain eased, there was still no clue to the fate of the four western tourists kidnapped by Kashmiri separatist gunmen last summer.

G2 cover story

Advertisement for Direct Line Mortgages. Features a large 'NO' graphic and text: 'arrangement fees, early redemption fees, mortgage indemnity fees, survey fees. wonder the banks and building societies are worried. No, you're not seeing things, a Direct Line mortgage can save you around £50\* a month. Whether you're moving house or simply moving your mortgage, there are no arrangement or survey fees. Mortgages are available for up to 90% of the property value or purchase price, whichever is lower and there is no mortgage indemnity premium to pay. We don't charge early redemption fees either. If you're moving your mortgage, call us by 17th August 1996, complete the transfer using our solicitors package and we'll even pay your legal fees and guarantee you a saving of 20%\* on your existing buildings insurance. So, if you want the best mortgage deal, say no to the building societies and say yes to Direct Line.



# Ex-soldier admits IRA bombing

Owen Bowcott and Conor Foley

**A** FORMER Parachute Regiment cook who deserted three days before Bloody Sunday, when 14 nationalist protesters were shot dead in Bogside by soldiers from his regiment.

He used family connections to contact the IRA and the Belfast Brigade welcomed his military expertise. After carrying out the Ripon bombings, he was arrested in Dublin in late 1974. He served nine years for arms offences, during which, he claims, he became disillusioned with the IRA because of the pub bombings in Birmingham and Guildford.

After release he was sent to the United States on republican business but was recalled to face an IRA court martial. He fled back to New York and sought political asylum to avoid deportation for being an illegal alien.

His complex predicament left him a lonely figure, cut off from the support of republican circles and facing extradition proceedings to Britain. Despite being granted political asylum — the first time such a category was conferred on an IRA suspect — his case became the subject of protracted legal wranglings.

In 1986 he lost his right to stay and was preparing to return to Dublin voluntarily when a new extradition treaty with Britain came into force. After nine years, mainly in New York's Metropolitan Correction Centre, he accepted he would have to return to face the British courts.

When Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Féin, visited Washington in November 1994, he was said to have handed President Clinton a list of 20 people in US custody whose release would advance the peace process. McMullen's name had allegedly been crossed off.

There were no warnings for the four bombs at Claro Barracks, near Ripon, in March 1974 which devastated buildings and injured the managers of a NAAFI shop. The devices had been triggered by cheap Japanese alarm clocks. It was the Provisional IRA's first bombing of an army barracks in Britain.

Born in Magherafelt, Co Londonderry, McMullen joined the British army in 1963, a career move not uncommon for young Catholic men then. His loyalties were torn when the First Battalion of the Parachute Regiment was posted to Northern Ireland in the early 1970s.

The final split came in January 1972. In an interview last year, before returning to Britain, he said he had feared what his fellow paratroopers were planning. "There had been confrontation on a march a few days beforehand," he recalled, "and they were talking in the mess about the need to show the

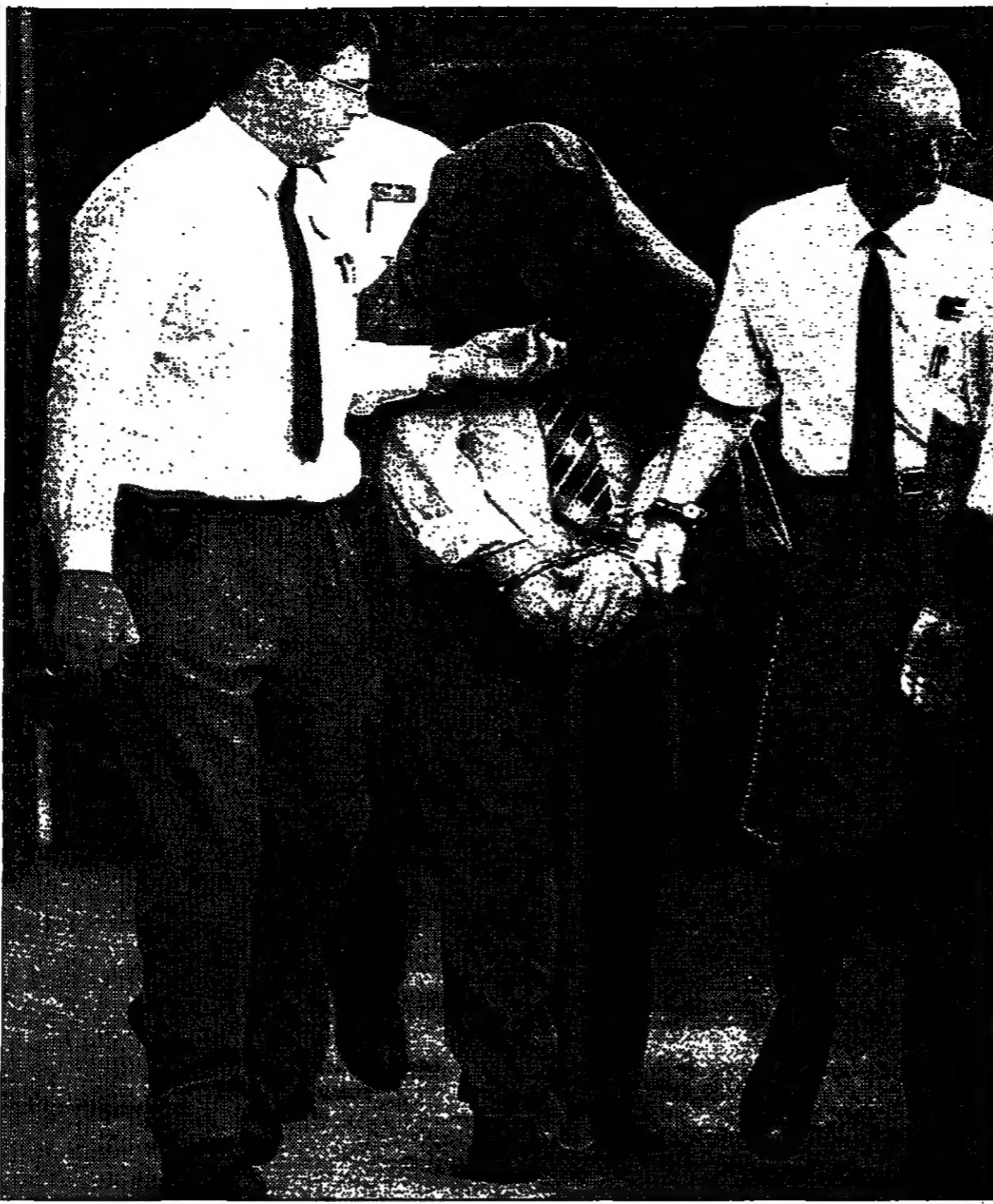
marshes who was boss." He deserted three days before Bloody Sunday, when 14 nationalist protesters were shot dead in Bogside by soldiers from his regiment.

After release he was sent to the United States on republican business but was recalled to face an IRA court martial. He fled back to New York and sought political asylum to avoid deportation for being an illegal alien.

His complex predicament left him a lonely figure, cut off from the support of republican circles and facing extradition proceedings to Britain. Despite being granted political asylum — the first time such a category was conferred on an IRA suspect — his case became the subject of protracted legal wranglings.

In 1986 he lost his right to stay and was preparing to return to Dublin voluntarily when a new extradition treaty with Britain came into force. After nine years, mainly in New York's Metropolitan Correction Centre, he accepted he would have to return to face the British courts.

When Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Féin, visited Washington in November 1994, he was said to have handed President Clinton a list of 20 people in US custody whose release would advance the peace process. McMullen's name had allegedly been crossed off.



Peter McMullen, the former Parachute Regiment cook, being led away from court to await sentence for leading the IRA attack 22 years ago on the Ripon barracks (below) which devastated buildings and injured the manager of a NAAFI shop

## Battle continues for return of Ulster's wanted men

**E**XTRADITION proceedings against other republican suspects, including four who escaped from the Maze prison in 1983 and fled to the United States, have continued despite paramilitary ceasefires in Northern Ireland, writes Owen Bowcott.

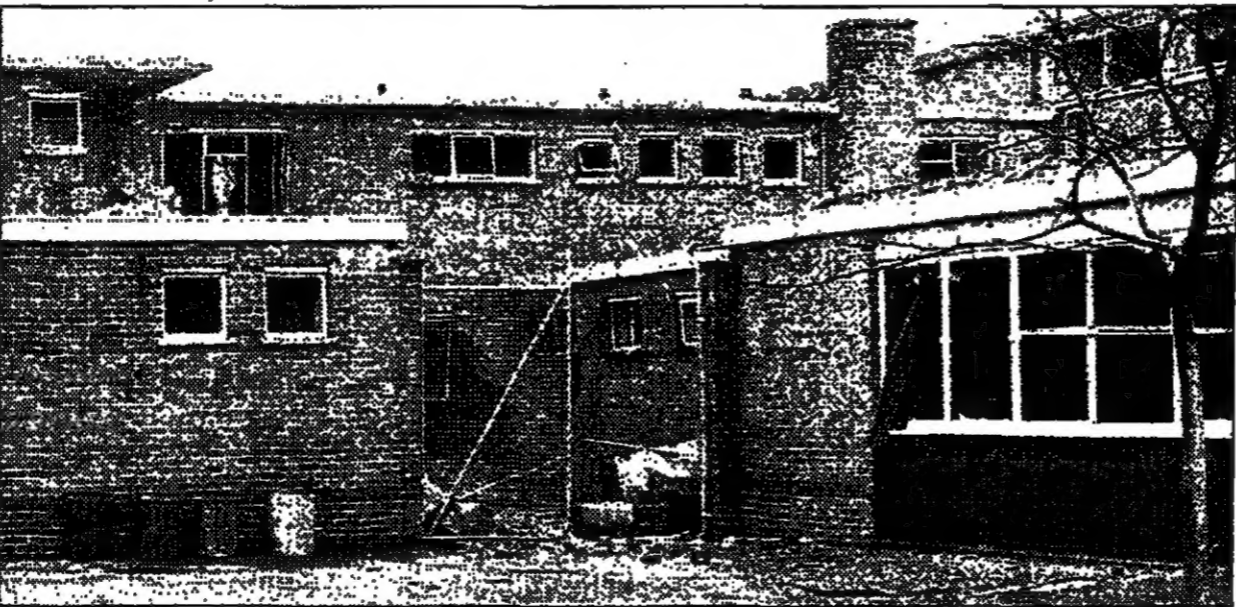
The cases against Kevin Artt, Jim Smyth, Terry Kirby and Paul Brennan are still being pursued by the Northern Ireland Office. All four have resisted attempts to return them to the United Kingdom for trial, claiming their offences were political and their lives would be in danger in Belfast.

Artt and Kirby had been serving life for murder,

Smyth 20 years for attempted murder and Brennan 16 years for possessing explosives.

Smyth, now 42, married an American woman and worked as a house painter in San Francisco. The US Supreme Court rejected his appeal. He is due to be deported shortly unless President Clinton intervenes.

Pearse McCauley and Nesson Quinlivan, who broke out of Brixton prison, south London, in 1981, are wanted in connection with conspiracy to murder Sir Charles Tibbory, the former chairman of Whitbread. Extradition attempts were forced to wait while both men served sentences in the republic.



## Exam chiefs attack limit on number of A level re-sits

**E**XAMINATION board chiefs yesterday condemned government plans to limit permitted re-sits in new "pass-as-you-go" A levels.

Kathleen Tattersall, secretary of the Joint Council for GCSE Boards, said she found speculation about this year's results "deplorable".

Moves to change regulations covering modular exams before the first results were known were "ridiculously premature".

The Department for Education and Employment confirmed yesterday that ministers plan to limit the number of times students can re-sit modules in the new exams, in which only 30 per cent of marks come from a final written test.

One option being considered

is to allow just one re-sit, and insist if students get a poorer grade, that should stand.

The department issued yesterday's statement amid predictions that pupils taking modular courses for the first time in significant numbers this year will boost the A level pass rate.

Almost one in four of this year's A level grades in maths, English and the sciences will be the result of modular courses.

Traditionalists are already alarmed that the 10 per centage points rise in pass rates over five years is devaluing the academic standards.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP, a one-time headmaster and former Tory education minister, said modular A levels were "not worth the paper they are written on". He said: "There

is no comparison between a two-year A level course examined at the end and a modular A level course examined over short periods, which pupils can sit again and again until they pass."

But Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, said that was "an absolute slur on the hard work that students, families and teachers put in".

Ms Tattersall, chief executive of the Northern Examination and Assessment Board, said Sir Rhodes's comments were a "typically British response to improved attainment. It seems that if there is an improvement there must be something wrong."

"The idea that students should be allowed to re-sit, but then held to a lower mark

if they don't do any better is like asking them to take part in a lottery."

Labour will today publish figures which show a huge leap in the number of parents falling to secure their first choice school for their children, writes Rebecca Smithers.

The Department for Education figures, obtained by Labour MP Stephen Byers in parliamentary answers, relate to appeals lodged with local education authorities.

They show that in 1994/95 there were 54,427 appeals by parents covering all schools. Of these, 38,032 were heard and 23,169 automatically rejected. Of those heard, 40 per cent (14,638) were found "in favour" of the appellant, which means the LEA has to send the child to the parents' original choice of school.



Sir Rhodes Boyson: 'New modular exams are worthless'

### News in brief

#### Morocco holds two Britons over drugs

TWO British tourists were yesterday arrested at Casablanca airport by Moroccan customs officers allegedly trying to smuggle 5kg (11lb) of hashish to Britain, a police spokesman said. They were named as Sally Louise Griffith, 18, and Louise Claire Martina, 28, both of Harwich, Essex.

The British consulate confirmed that the two tourists were arrested but said it could not comment on the possible charges. Police said the tourists bought the hashish in the central city of Fez. Morocco earlier this year launched a crackdown on drugs smuggling and has arrested German, French, Spanish and Hungarian nationals for alleged trafficking.

#### Golden eagle chick reared

GOLDEN eagles have successfully reared a chick at their only known nest in England for the first time in three years. The fledging took its first flight at the closely monitored site in the Lake District where wardens from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds maintain a 24-hour guard. Eagles have nested in the remote Haweswater area since 1969, arriving from their main British stronghold in the Scottish Highlands.

But the resident pair's failure to raise a chick since 1969 had raised fears that the local population might be lost. Andy Buntin, RSPB regional officer, said: "This is tremendous news for a special pair of birds and for all the volunteers and staff who have shown such dedication in safeguarding these birds from accidental disturbance or egg collectors' raids." — Martin Wainwright

#### Water firm fined £175,000

A PRIVATISED water company was fined £175,000 yesterday for poisoning one of the best salmon rivers in Britain. Severn Trent admitted leaking chemicals into the River Wye killing 33,000 salmon. Cardiff crown court heard that the leak was the company's 34th conviction since privatisation in 1989.

Mark Bailey, prosecuting for the National Rivers Authority, said the pollution from the Elan Valley water treatment works at Rhydydar, Powys, had "catastrophic consequences" for the river. "An estimated 33,000 young salmon were exterminated by this leak, which affected eight kilometres of river."

Judge John Prosser told company executives sitting in the court that the leak was due to a combination of design defects, gross mismanagement and inferior maintenance. The company, which pleaded guilty to two counts of polluting and contaminating the river, was also ordered to pay costs and compensation totalling almost \$44,000.

In mitigation, Severn Trent's barrister, Benjamin Nicholas, told the court the chemicals leaked through a hair-line crack in a pipe which was repaired as soon as it was spotted.

#### Man held on shotgun death

POLICE were last night questioning a man about the death of a Tory activist at his home in Norfolk. Robert Bull, aged 58, from Ringland, near Norwich, died of shock and haemorrhage caused by shotgun injuries, Norfolk police said. A 28-year-old local man was helping police with their inquiries. No one else is being sought in connection with the death.

Mr Bull, a retired post office senior manager, was a prominent member of the Costessey Conservative Association and a friend of the local MP and former cabinet minister, John MacGregor. His son Nicholas, aged 28, a car salesman who lives in the same home, is the former vice-chairman of a local branch and unsuccessfully stood for the parish council in May. Mr Bull was described by friends as a gentle, unassuming man, whose main hobby was DIY and gardening. — Alex Bellis

#### Springsteen's court move

BRUCE Springsteen is heading for a High Court confrontation over what he claims are bootleg copies of his hit double album Unearthed. He has issued a writ against Flute International Ltd, of Bristol, and Robert Tringham, of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, seeking damages.

Additionally, he is seeking a court order restraining them from copying or authorising the copying of any part of the musical and associated literary works in 23 songs from Unearthed. He is also seeking injunctions restraining them from selling, offering for sale, and from parting with possession of recordings of his performances.

#### 'Rotten boroughs' warning

ENGLAND is faced with a swathe of "rotten boroughs" where relatively few voters can help determine which party controls their cities, the Liberal Democrats claimed yesterday. Some wards in local authorities had at least double the electorate of others despite the fact they all returned three councillors, said the party in an appeal for a review of electoral boundaries.

In Liverpool the largest ward had 16,600 electors compared with 4,544 in its smallest. In Sheffield the largest was 25,069, the smallest 9,134, and in Manchester wards ranged in size from 5,466 to 11,878.

David Rendel, the party's local government spokesman, said the flight of population to the suburbs had helped to create Labour fiefdoms. "The return of the rotten boroughs has all but destroyed democratic choice in many areas," he said. — James Melkie

#### 'Bring back my children' plea

A WOMAN yesterday pleaded with her former husband and her mother: "Please bring my children back." Sara Holmes, 27, was backed at Norwich crown court by Judge David Mellor. He made the two boys and a girl wards of court in a move to get Iranian Hamad Mirza, 33, and Mrs Holmes's mother, Pauline Jasper, 83, an auxiliary nurse from Lowestoft, Suffolk, to return them.

Mrs Holmes, of Martlesham Heath, Suffolk, said she had married in March 1986, after meeting Mr Hamad at Lowestoft college for further education. She left her husband, a Lowestoft taxi driver, about a year ago and last week they were divorced.

Mrs Holmes has custody of the children, aged nine, seven and three, with reasonable access by her husband and her mother, with whom she lived until the divorce. She said they had the children for a month during the summer holidays. Judge Mellor yesterday asked for publicity for the case so that the children can be located.

# Incredible value. Just a call away.

- DELL DIMENSION P133t
- INTEL® 133MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR
- 16Mb EDO RAM
- 256Kb PIPELINE BURST CACHE
- 1 Gb EIDE HARD DRIVE
- INTEGRATED 64-BIT PCI LOCAL BUS VIDEO WITH 1Mb VIDEO MEMORY
- 15" SVGA MONITOR (13.75" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 2 ISA AND 1 PCI/ISA SHARED EXPANSION SLOTS
- SIX SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE
- MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- MICROSOFT WINDOWS 95
- MICROSOFT OFFICE PROFESSIONAL 95
- DELL MOUSE AND KEYBOARD

Our latest PC package really is incredible. For just £1,099 (£1,320.70 including delivery & VAT) the Dell Dimension® P133t gives you the speed of a 133MHz Pentium® Processor, the performance of 16Mb EDO RAM, a 256Kb Pipeline Burst Cache, the convenience of Microsoft® Office Professional 95 pre-loaded, the industry's leading business application and a fast Six Speed CD-ROM drive. Don't forget all the advantages of our award-winning support and the reliability you'd expect from the UK's largest direct PC manufacturer. This incredible offer is just a call away on 01344 724669.

**TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE**  
**01344 724669**  
Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat.

Dell is a registered trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. Intel, Intel Inside, Pentium and Pentium Inside are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Office Professional 95 and the Windows logo are registered trademarks of the Microsoft Corporation. Delivery is charged at £15.00 per hour or more to most areas. Prices change frequently. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. To purchase our other products, contact our customer support team using the 01344 724669 or visit our website at www.dell.co.uk. © 1996 Dell Computer Corporation. All rights reserved.

Germany takes on

Minister will BC not to change in st

Sample maintenance

سكاي من الاجل



# Bonn wants calves of infected cattle slaughtered Germany raises stakes on cow cull

Ian Traynor in Bonn

GERMANY yesterday moved towards a fresh confrontation with Britain over mad cow disease when Bonn demanded that the selective culling programme for British BSE-infected cattle be widened to include calves.

Bonn also ordered further domestic action aimed at curbing the perceived threat of BSE, attacked the European Commission for being over-hasty in relaxing the export ban on British cattle products, and insisted that the commission re-examine promptly the efficacy of Britain's programme to eliminate the disease.

German officials flatly contradicted last week's Ministry of Agriculture statement that fresh evidence that BSE could be passed from cow to calf need not affect the Government's action plan.

"We are demanding that the selective culling programme be extended to the last-born calves of BSE-infected cattle," said Werner

Zwingmann, head of the veterinary department at the German agriculture ministry. Whitehall revealed last week a new study showing that BSE could be transmitted maternally in cattle. "The UK eradication plan for BSE already acknowledged this possibility... All the measures necessary to protect public health are already in place."

German officials yesterday indirectly criticised what they clearly view as British complacency on BSE.

The agriculture minister, Jochen Borchert, said Brussels had to act swiftly in reviewing the programme already agreed for tackling BSE in Britain.

The new evidence "means we have to decide whether new action is required, whether the current measures are sufficient or whether more needs to be done", he said.

His statement followed a meeting of health and agriculture officials from the central government and the 16 federal states, hastily convened to discuss the latest British findings.

Asked whether British dairy products were safe for consumption, Mr Borchert said there was no hard evidence of any risk from milk but urged consumers to buy German. "Germany is BSE free."

Last week in its statement the UK ministry said there was no evidence of BSE infectivity being transmitted through milk. It added, however, that the Central Veterinary Laboratory's epidemiology department in Weybridge, Surrey, was "undertaking further detailed studies on this point and that the results of these studies will be available very soon."

Since then the ministry has vehemently denied that any studies on the possible risk from milk are being done.

Mr Borchert demanded that the commission and its veterinary and scientific committees address the issue of milk and dairy products and the risk of BSE infection.

He said the beef crisis was being exacerbated by the fact that, despite the world export ban on beef imposed this year, British cattle were still being fed animal meal.



A walker surveys the Lulworth section of the 600 mile South-West Coastal Path, which is to be reopened after closure because of erosion. The re-routed 600 yard section has been agreed between Dorset county council, Lulworth Estate and the Bishop's Cottage hotel. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID MANGELL

# Minister warns BBC not to cast change in stone

Andrew Culf  
Media Correspondent

THE BBC was warned yesterday that changes to the World Service should not be "cast in stone" before the Foreign Office had ensured its character and quality had been preserved.

The FO minister Jeremy Hanley said any changes introduced by the BBC before a joint working party with the Foreign Office reported next month could not be regarded as irrevocable.

"If the BBC choose to make management changes or certain appointments in that time scale, then there is the understanding that they could be reversed if the quality and the ethos of the World Service was proved to be at risk," he told Radio 4's 'The World at One'.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, ordered the setting up of the working group last month, after a meeting with Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC's chairman. It will assess the impact of the BBC's plan to merge the service's English language and news programmes with domestic departments.

The BBC has said that work will proceed on the changes, but implementation is not due until next April. It has already appointed senior World Service personnel to oversee the merger of news departments with BBC News, the domestic directorate.

Mr Hanley reiterated the Government's concern over the lack of consultation. "We



felt that the BBC should recognise that nothing should be cast in stone before we had the opportunity to make sure that the quality and special character of the World Service had been protected."

Mr Hanley insisted there should be financial transparency in the World Service's administration because the Government provided £175 million a year to fund it. "We do not want that money to filter through to the mainstream BBC."

But he said suggestions from cabinet sources, reported in yesterday's Guardian, that Mr Rifkind had already decided to tear up director general John Birt's blueprint were "very inaccurate indeed".

Management was an issue for the BBC, but the Foreign Office as paymaster needed to maintain the service's quality. "There has to be the proper priority which serves our audience and not just serves the convenience of the BBC."

# Blood samples 'switched to avoid maintenance payout'

A HOSPITAL orderly and his lover tampered with blood samples so he could avoid paying maintenance for his baby daughter, Maidstone crown court was told yesterday.

Timothy Anderson, aged 24, had a blood test to determine paternity but then he and his girlfriend, nursing sister Elizabeth Mills, aged 33, sent off for analysis a sample belonging to another man.

The child's mother, Carol Thomas, aged 42, was horrified when the result concluded that Anderson was not the biological father. Certain that he was, she made an official complaint to Medway NHS Trust and the police.

Anderson was arrested and another sample taken. This proved that he was almost 6,000 times more likely to be the child's father than any other man.

Anderson, of Lenham, near Maidstone, Kent, denies committing an act intended to pervert the course of justice between May 1994 and June 1995.

Mills, a mother of three,

who lives with Anderson, has admitted the same charge and will be sentenced at the end of his trial.

The jury heard that Anderson and Mrs Thomas met in January 1993. She already had four children and by March that year she was pregnant.

She reluctantly agreed to an abortion, but changed her mind after having a scan and seeing her unborn child.

The little girl was born in November that year. Mrs Thomas gave up work and began claiming benefit.

The Child Support Agency stepped in and Anderson, who disputed paternity, had to undergo a blood test. At the time he and Mills were working at Medway hospital, Gillingham.

The court heard that Mills arranged for a consultant to witness the taking of the blood.

Michael O'Sullivan, prosecuting, said: "Quite simply his sample was switched with that of another person once the doctor had left."

The trial continues.

So far we can look people in the eyes and say that not one award, not even the grant to the Royal Opera House, has been made at the expense of any other. We have sufficient money. Lord Gowrie



# EMPOWER with yourself THE Money you need NOW.

The moment you call Mercantile Credit you'll begin to appreciate the benefits of dealing direct. Cutting out the middleman, we can offer you an excellent value loan with no security or deposit required. You can choose repayment terms to suit you and your circumstances.

From 15.9% APR

For a fast decision pick up the phone any time from 7 a.m. to midnight, or post the coupon, and just see how it feels to be empowered.

- ..... you need NOW.
1. Employer's name/address/business telephone number.
  2. Monthly income and major outgoings.
  3. Bank/Building Society and Credit Card details.
  4. Amount you require (from £500 - £15,000).

# Call free 0800 111 777

## MERCANTILE CREDIT

DIRECT · PERSONAL · LOANS

Please empower me today by sending me details of your direct personal loans. (Send completed coupon to Mercantile Credit, PO Box 117, FREEPOST SEA 0521, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 2BR.)

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

MERCANTILE BANK PLC TRADING AS MERCANTILE CREDIT, REGISTERED OFFICE 54 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON EC3P 3AH, REGISTERED IN ENGLAND REG. NO. 269897. MERCANTILE BANK PLC IS A MEMBER OF THE BANKING COMPENSATION SCHEME. LOANS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO PERSONS UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE, SUBJECT TO STATUS. PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME CALLS MAY BE RECEIVED OR TRANSMITTED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES. MERCANTILE CREDIT, FREEPOST, PO BOX 117, LONDON SW18 1LN HAS WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM THIS ADDRESS. A TYPICAL EXAMPLE WOULD BE A LOAN OF £5,000 REPAYED OVER 48 MONTHS WITH THE PRESENT MARKET CALLS MAY BE RECEIVED OR TRANSMITTED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES. MERCANTILE CREDIT, FREEPOST, PO BOX 117, LONDON SW18 1LN HAS WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM THIS ADDRESS. A TYPICAL EXAMPLE WOULD BE A LOAN OF £5,000 REPAYED OVER 48 MONTHS WITH THE PRESENT MARKET CALLS MAY BE RECEIVED OR TRANSMITTED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES. MERCANTILE CREDIT, FREEPOST, PO BOX 117, LONDON SW18 1LN HAS WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM THIS ADDRESS. A TYPICAL EXAMPLE WOULD BE A LOAN OF £5,000 REPAYED OVER 48 MONTHS WITH THE PRESENT MARKET CALLS MAY BE RECEIVED OR TRANSMITTED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.





Israel's prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, reviews Bedouin guards at the royal palace, Amman, yesterday. King Hussein wants to revive the peace process PHOTOGRAPH BY ALI JARREH

# Israel hopes to tempt Syria with Lebanon deal

David Hirst in Beirut

THE ISRAELI prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, expressed confidence yesterday about the prospect of resuming peace negotiations with Syria.

He indicated that a so-called "Lebanon-first" formula would be a good starting point for the talks, which have looked highly improbable since he and his hard-line Likud government came to power two months ago.

President Hafez al-Assad of Syria has yet to respond. Despite his campaign to show good will on all fronts, he will almost certainly reject what he considers to be a subterfuge to postpone indefinitely discussion of the future of the Golan Heights. Syria demands a complete Israeli withdrawal; Mr Netanyahu has ruled that out.

Under "Lebanon-first", Israel would withdraw from south Lebanon's "security zone" in return for a cessation of the Hizbullah guerrillas, the return of the Lebanese army to the south and various "security guarantees".

Syria and Lebanon have called it a "trap" into which they will not fall.

Mr Netanyahu was speaking at a press conference in Amman after holding talks with King Hussein of Jordan, who had been in Damascus over the weekend. His officials denied that he was acting as a mediator between Syria and Israel, but said that Jordan was ready to help revive the peace process.

Mr Netanyahu said Israel was "ready to engage in peace negotiations with Syria on all outstanding issues". Speaking of Lebanon, he said that Israel had no territorial claims.

But the Syrian and Lebanese governments have so far made clear that they see "Lebanon-first" as a stratagem by which Mr Netanyahu can conceal his basic intransigence. Then Syria can be cast in the role of spoiler, as the obstacle to an Israeli withdrawal.

It seems, however, that while as unbending as ever about his basic requirements for peace, President Assad is trying to appear flexible too.

One of the few men in Lebanon with the courage to speak his mind on such atrocities is a former mayor, Bassam al-Shaka.

He believes that the Oslo land-for-peace formula was a sellout.

Earlier this year, when Mr Arafat made his first trip to visit to "liberated" Nablus, he asked to see Mr Shaka. Mr Shaka firmly refused to have Abu Amar — the leader's non-de-guerre — in his home. Mr Arafat, he told the great man's no doubt horrified aides, was a traitor.

He was similarly blunt yesterday.

"Why did they do this to Mahmoud Jumayl? I don't know for sure, but I think his group took an independent line inside Fatah and Abu Amar did not want that. He didn't want a man with such strength," he said.

Last January Mr Shaka was denouncing the Palestinian elections, and predicting — accurately — that the new elected council would not temper Mr Arafat's autocratic ways.

"Now you can see what the council is doing. This is Abu Amar's democracy. If Abu Amar does not accept anything, then that thing must be stopped, and must be stopped," he said.

# Nablus lowers the flag on Arafat

Derek Brown in Nablus

SOMETHING is missing in Nablus. The city seems to be going about its business normally; the traffic is hirsute as usual, and there is no suggestion of tension, let alone trouble. But something is missing.

Realisation comes with a shock: there is not a single Palestinian flag in sight. For nearly three years, since the signing of the Oslo peace accord, Nablus has been festooned in red, white, green and black. Now only the black remains: the colour of mourning and protest.

The national colours came down last week, with the

death of Mahmoud Jumayl at the hands of Palestinian security men. They battered and burned him and, according to one account, drilled holes through his hands. The 36-year-old was brain-dead by the time he reached hospital.

Yesterday a black flag fluttered over the Jumayl home in Nablus. Women of the family, drained of tears yet still white with grief, clustered in a downstairs room. Upstairs, two of Mahmoud's brothers talked round and round their anger, their disillusion — and their fear.

"We should watch what we are saying," said Mu'ad, aged 23. "I don't want my mother to lose another one."

Amir, aged 24, said simply that he was "not ready" to

talk about why his brother was tortured to death. He laughed bitterly when reminded that the Palestinian Authority president, Yasser Arafat, had called the murder "a mistake".

"What kind of mistake was it? They burned him all over his body," he said.

The consensus is that Mahmoud Jumayl, the seventh Palestinian to die at the hands of the Palestinian security forces, was the victim of a system that simply cannot tolerate criticism, let alone opposition. He was no danger to anybody — he had been in prison on Jericho for eight months, uncharged and untried — but he represented an affront to the elite which now runs the West Bank city.

Before self-rule came to Nablus, in December last year, Mahmoud was a powerful man. He had been in an Israeli prison, and had spent a couple of years on the run. More recently, he was associated with Ahmed Tabouq, leader of the so-called Fatah Hawks.

The Hawks, an offshoot of Yasser Arafat's own Fatah movement, had a robust view of order and how to enforce it. Their targets were collaborators, drug-dealers and pimps and in less than a couple of years, while Israeli occupation forces looked the other way, they executed at least 12 and knecapped a couple of dozen more.

Mahmoud, according to his brother Amir, was a kind of

judge. "All the people loved him. He was neutral, even with people dealing with drugs. He used to listen to all sides," he said.

Mahmoud's body was borne through the throng in a simple shroud, his face and hands uncovered, so that those who could struggle near enough could kiss him.

The Palestinian Authority, whose men murdered Mahmoud, had the gall to offer a military escort for the funeral, and a flag to drape over the body. Both were turned down.

Mu'ad was also involved with Tabouq's faction and was arrested at the same time as the leader of the Hawks. When Mahmoud went to Jericho in December last year to

inquire about his brother, he too was arrested. Both were detained for eight months. Mu'ad was released only to attend his brother's funeral.

Why Mahmoud was brought back to Nablus on July 27 to be interrogated in the Jneid prison remains unclear. The "questioning" was done by a unit of the coastal police — one of at least 10 semi-autonomous Palestinian security forces responsible only to Mr Arafat.

The three thugs who killed Mahmoud were tried in Jericho last week, in the wake of widespread West Bank protest. Two were jailed for 15 years; the third for 10 years. There was no cross examination. Few in Nablus believe they will serve more than a fraction of their sentences.

An inquiry has been set up, consisting entirely of local Fatah worthies. The Jumayl family has not been allowed its own representation, nor can it ask any questions.

One of the few men in Nablus with the courage to speak his mind on such atrocities is a former mayor, Bassam al-Shaka.

He believes that the Oslo land-for-peace formula was a sellout.

Earlier this year, when Mr Arafat made his first trip to visit to "liberated" Nablus, he asked to see Mr Shaka. Mr Shaka firmly refused to have Abu Amar — the leader's non-de-guerre — in his home. Mr Arafat, he told the great man's no doubt horrified aides, was a traitor.

He was similarly blunt yesterday.

"Why did they do this to Mahmoud Jumayl? I don't know for sure, but I think his group took an independent line inside Fatah and Abu Amar did not want that. He didn't want a man with such strength," he said.

Last January Mr Shaka was denouncing the Palestinian elections, and predicting — accurately — that the new elected council would not temper Mr Arafat's autocratic ways.

"Now you can see what the council is doing. This is Abu Amar's democracy. If Abu Amar does not accept anything, then that thing must be stopped, and must be stopped," he said.

# Art at the cutting edge of economy

Avignon's museum restoration has made it France's most indebted town, writes Paul Webster

THE first floor gallery of the newly reopened Musée Calvet near the Palais des Papes in Avignon is illuminated by a row of huge windows that add to an impression of airy optimism in a building that has been closed for 10 years.

Busts of the Vernet family of Provençal painters, who were among the many private donors to the museum, line the way to other restored galleries housing two of the most valued exhibits — David's La Mort du Jeune Bara and Chassériau's La Nymphé Endormie, one of the 19th century's most scandalous works.

While nobody would dare put a price on these two national masterpieces, the cost of restoration has raised a question mark over the national museum policy.

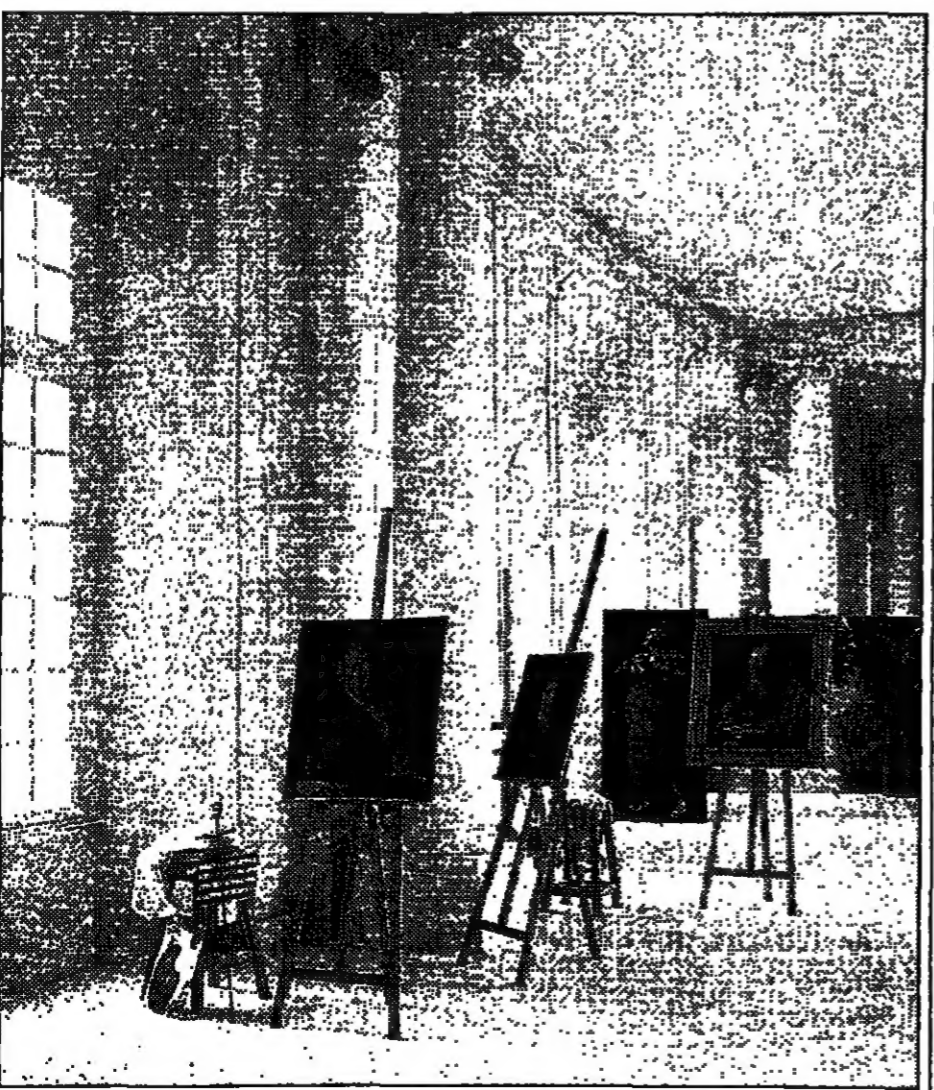
About 400 have been built or improved in less than 20 years. Another 60 schemes are under way, adding to or enlarging the existing 1,300 national and municipal galleries.

The decision to renovate the Musée Calvet, created under Napoleon with gifts from a local doctor, Esprit Calvet, was taken in 1986 by the rightwing council.

Political quarrels, financial problems and architectural disputes increased the cost by more than 30 per cent, to more than £10 million, but only a third of the gallery was ready for the official reopening.

Another £5 million is needed to complete it before Avignon takes over as Europe's cultural capital in 2000.

Avignon's cautionary tale may mark the beginning of a new era of national cultural extravagance which has included the creation of the Picasso and provincial projects in towns from Nice to Calais and from Rennes to Strasbourg.



The newly renovated gallery at the Musée Calvet, Avignon, gives an impression of airy optimism. Paintings are being restored in the gallery for the reopening

While there is no threat to the Grand Louvre project and improvements to the 34 other state museums, like Versailles, which attract 10 million visitors a year, the Avignon experiment is giving pause for thought to towns which have to put up at least half the cost of creating museums at a time of increasing social demands.

Avignon has become the most indebted city in France and has been forced to cut its cultural budget by 10 per cent from a 1983 peak of more than £20 million a year.

Prestige projects in some other towns were postponed before last year's municipal elections and

will have to be reviewed. Françoise Cachin, director of the Réunion des Musées Nationaux, said that a general tightening of the French budget threatened investment in municipal museums, which received nearly £40 million in state help over the past two years.

"There are thousands upon thousands of potential exhibits held in reserve, which have been accumulated over the past 200 years, which could be made available to museums throughout the country if suitable space was created," she said.

"But we already have financial difficulty in acquiring essential art objects on

the open market, which we have the right to buy only by using funds from entry fees."

Meanwhile the Musée Calvet, which has yet to find space for 400 fine arts donations from an antique dealer, could become something of an outdated exhibition piece itself.

Municipal galleries are turning more and more to social themes rather than picture collections. Ms Cachin said, pointing to a growing concentration on ecology and industrial exhibitions such as the Fama machinery centre at Chartres, the boat museum at Douarnenez in Brittany and Angoulême's comic strip library.

## News in brief

### Russian officer dies in blast

A Russian army colonel, Yuri Kim, who fought in Chechnya, was killed in a bomb explosion at his home in Volgograd yesterday. Itar-Tass news agency said.

Police were investigating possible links with Chechnya and Col Kim's career as a businessman. — Reuters.

### Pacific crossing

The Japanese adventurer Kenichi Horie, aged 56, completed the first-ever solar-powered voyage across the Pacific yesterday, a bit thinner than 138 days earlier but still in good health. Mr Horie arrived at a Tokyo pier after travelling 1,600 kilometers, 1,000 miles from Ecuador in a boat made from recycled aluminum. — AP.

### President fined

The French authorities fined President Ernesto Samper of Colombia \$10,000 (£6,400) for making an unusually noisy landing with his Boeing 707 presidential jet at Orly airport in Paris. Colombia's news magazine Semana said. — Reuters.

### Belgian drought

Belgium went on drought alert yesterday when water reserves ran low. — Reuters.

### Prosecutors' plea

German prosecutors said in Berlin yesterday that they wanted the former Iranian president Abolhasan Bani-sadr, who lives near Paris, to testify about allegations that Tehran was linked to the murder in 1982 of three Kurdish opposition leaders in Berlin. — Reuters.

### Blow to cardinal

Cardinal Hans Hermann Groer, aged 78, a former Vienna archbishop, said accusations of sexually abusing minors in his charge had destroyed him emotionally, but did not say whether the claims were true. — Reuters.

### Manila accord

The Philippines expects to sign a final agreement in two weeks with Muslim rebels to end the 24-year revolt for Muslim self-rule in the southern Mindanao region, senior officials said. — Reuters.

### Tonga earthquake

A severe earthquake struck the South Pacific near the Tonga islands yesterday, Hong Kong's Royal Observatory said. — Reuters.

# Disabled Bosnian fights new war against apathy

Faruk Sabanovic has won Sarajevo's first wheelchair ramp, in a city where the wounded cope alone, writes Jane Perlez

THROUGH four years of war, Sarajevans prided themselves on their solidarity. They picked up their dead from the streets, they embraced the wounded, they grieved in cathedrals, churches and mosques.

Now, as the city adjusts to peace, most of those who were gravely wounded or paralysed by the war are treated like outcasts, left in institutions or at home without help.

"It's strange," says Faruk Sabanovic, a 31-year-old paraplegic after being hit by sniper's bullet on a street in central Sarajevo last year, and confined to a wheelchair. "I was walking normally like anybody else. A few days after I was wounded, I was meeting the same people and they treated me differently. There's something in people's minds that makes them think because we are in wheelchairs, we are weak."

His shooting was recorded by a cameraman who also captured on video a nearby United Nations peacekeeper doing nothing to help as Mr Sabanovic lay limp on the ground. His case caught the attention of the International Rescue Committee, an Ameri-

can organisation, which helped him seek treatment in the United States. But he was told by doctors in New York that he would never walk.

Since his return, Mr Sabanovic has campaigned tirelessly for people disabled by the war.

About a quarter of Sarajevo's population were wounded in the war, says Mark Bartolmi, the Rescue Committee's project director in the capital. Most have recovered, but the others have received scant help from the government. Financial support is meagre. Wounded war veterans, who receive the most generous benefits, about \$33 a month. They are also supposed to be provided with housing. Civilians disabled during the war get much less.

Because he operated a mine sweeper in the army for a year, Mr Sabanovic was awarded a flat three months ago. But it needs extensive rebuilding, including a ramp so he can get in the front door.

Sefika Skorupan, whose spinal cord was injured three years ago by shrapnel, says she is entitled to \$670 a month, a can of meat and 2lb

of sugar. Ms Skorupan, aged 23, says her husband is very supportive. She is luckier than most: "One woman has not been down in the city since 1992. She lives up on a hill, doesn't have a car, and her husband ignores her."

"Nobody cares about the problem," says Mr Sabanovic. "Like any other government, they are trying to avoid support." So he persuaded the central post office that a wheelchair ramp was needed. With \$10,000 from the Rescue Committee, the ramp — Sarajevo's first wheelchair access — was completed last month.

He has applied for funds to install ramps at the university's school of physics, where he was a student, and plans to campaign for similar access at other buildings as rebuilt.

His next step will be to open a centre to teach paraplegics and other disabled people how to change to a career that is compatible with life in a wheelchair. He is trying to decide, for example, whether to go back to physics, concentrate on his love of music and film, or study social services.

He was taught in the US that life in a wheelchair offers vast opportunities, he says. "That's what I'm trying to make here," he adds, spinning around so that the inscription on the back of his T-shirt becomes clear. It reads: "You may say I'm a dreamer." — New York Times.

# Greece hails conquering heroes and claims gods are on its side for new Olympic bid

Helena Smith in Athens

DRUNK with joy at its success in the Atlanta Games, Greece has rolled out the red carpet for its team today in the Olympic stadium where the Olympic tradition was revived 100 years ago.

Backed by an explosion of national euphoria, the government has said that no expense will be spared to welcome the athletes home. They gained more medals — four gold and four silver — than Greece has won at any other modern Olympics.

The team's unexpected success has led to renewed claims that the centenary Olympic Games should have

been held in their birthplace. Athens narrowly lost to Atlanta in 1990 because it lacked the degree of technology and organisation the United States could offer. Afterwards, the capital seethed with resentment — until May this year, when celebrations marked the lighting of the Olympic flame at Olympia.

But international criticism of the Atlanta Games has put paid to the goodwill. The Greek media have increasingly attacked the International Olympic Committee for placing too much weight on the material contributions US multinationals would make in Atlanta.

"It takes a lot of effort to organise the Games as badly

as Atlanta did," snorted the former sports minister, Fani Palli-Petralla.

Ms Palli-Petralla, who oversaw Athens' candidacy six years ago, said she had been astonished by the commercialisation of the centennial.

Some officials have gone further and described Greece's sporting success in Atlanta as nothing short of "divine retribution".

Despite vowing never to bid for the Games again, Athens has offered to host the Olympics in eight years' time. By then, the authorities say the sports venues and infrastructure projects, including an extensive underground system, needed to host the Games will be completed.

Dole

T

Pluggin' in the...

PHOTOGRAPH BY...

Tamil Tigers fire... government troops

سكوا من الاجل



Presidential nominee pledges to slash rates by 15pc, but abortion row threatens to derail campaign

# Dole pins hopes on tax cut

**Martha Walker in Washington**

**T**HE Republican presidential challenger, Robert Dole, tried to revive his spattering campaign yesterday by promising a 15 per cent tax cut, which he claimed would spur the economy back to a fast-growth track of a sustained 3.5 per cent.

The electoral impact was blunted by the former senator's own earlier mockery of such Reaganesque economics, and renewed argument between the warring wings of his party on abortion, which threatens to dominate next week's Republican convention in San Diego.

Mr Dole and his supporters failed yesterday to get the

Republican platform committee, which is drafting the manifesto on which the party will fight the November election, to adopt an emollient "conscience clause" to reassure pro-abortion voters.

He is now condemned to fight the election on a promise to change the United States constitution so that outlaws abortion as murder, even though more than two-thirds of registered voters say they disagree. The issue is tearing the party apart in states such as Georgia and Kansas.

The stage is set for near civil war at next week's convention. Moderate Republican leaders, such as the governors of California, New Jersey and Massachusetts, are determined to fight the religious right wing on the issue.

Mr Dole is now also committed to a tax-cut and a fast-growth economic policy, a gamble which he dismissed as "désja voodoo" when the Reagan administration tripled the national debt to \$3 trillion in the 1980s.

He announced his long-awaited economic plan in Chicago yesterday, although it was already being denounced as "irresponsible and fake" by senior economists in the Clinton administration.

With the US boasting the best economic record in the G7 group of leading industrialised countries, Mr Dole has

little left to exploit, except his accusation yesterday of "consistent under-performance". Growth under President Clinton has averaged less than 3 per cent a year, less than the usual rate during recovery from a recession.

"Bob Dole believes the economy can grow at an

"We are not performing as we could," Mr Dole said. "To create rising incomes for all Americans, we have to set our people free, cut our taxes, raise our sights."

Under his scheme, all income taxes would be cut by 5 per cent in each of the next three years, and capital gains tax rates would be halved from 28 to 14 per cent. This would cost the treasury \$548 billion over the next six years.

Almost a third of this — \$147 billion — would be defrayed by faster growth producing higher tax revenues, Mr Dole insisted. The rest would be financed by spending cuts, although he promised that social security, Medicare and defence would be sacrosanct.

All this was by way of pre-

## The stage is set for near civil war at the Republican convention

luding Mr Dole promised, to a transformed tax system which would be "simpler, flatter and fairer".

This was his nod to the multi-millionaire publisher Malcolm Forbes, who won some early Republican primaries by promising to replace income tax with a flat-rate tax.

Mr Forbes, now an adviser to the Dole campaign, had hoped for something far bolder than Mr Dole's tax cut.

For months the Republican Party has seen the tax-cut pledge as its secret weapon, an inducement no rational electorate could refuse. But preliminary opinion polling by the Clinton campaign, which asked voters for their reaction to the options being explored by Mr Dole, found intense scepticism.

Mr Dole promised, to a transformed tax system which would be "simpler, flatter and fairer".

This was his nod to the multi-millionaire publisher Malcolm Forbes, who won some early Republican primaries by promising to replace income tax with a flat-rate tax.

Mr Forbes, now an adviser to the Dole campaign, had hoped for something far bolder than Mr Dole's tax cut.

For months the Republican Party has seen the tax-cut pledge as its secret weapon, an inducement no rational electorate could refuse. But preliminary opinion polling by the Clinton campaign, which asked voters for their reaction to the options being explored by Mr Dole, found intense scepticism.

## News in brief

### Germany seeks ex-Nazi's arrest

ITALY said yesterday it had received a German request, through Interpol, to arrest Karl Hass, a former SS major who testified at the war crimes trial of Erich Priebke that he had not taken part in the massacre of 335 Italians in the Ardentine caves near Rome in 1944.

Mr Hass, aged 81, is in hospital in Italy after breaking his pelvis in a fall from a hotel balcony while trying to avoid testifying at Mr Priebke's trial.

A justice ministry spokesman said officials were reviewing the warrant and had not yet arrested Mr Hass. "He is under the control of Italian authorities," he added. — *Reuters, Rome.*

### Egyptian court orders divorce

AN EGYPTIAN court yesterday rejected an appeal by a happily married university professor against a ruling that he must divorce his wife because he was found to have renounced Islam.

The ruling at the Cairo court of cassation supported Muslim fundamentalists who took Nasr Abu Zaid, a professor of Arabic, to court, saying he must leave his wife Ibrahim Younis, who is also an academic, because his writing on Islam had made him an unbeliever.

Court sources said they had expected the judge, Mohammed Misbah Sharabiya, to postpone his decision until Mr Abu Zaid's lawyers had included details of legislation passed by parliament earlier this year that supports their case. — *Reuters, Cairo.*

### Death call at S Korean trial

IN A TRIAL watched nervously by Asian leaders kept in power by military force, South Korean prosecutors demanded the death sentence yesterday on Chun Doo-hwan, a former president accused of orchestrating the 1980 massacre in the southern city of Kwangju.

As protesters outside the court in the South Korean capital Seoul chanted "death to the slaughterers", the prosecution asked a panel of judges to order the execution of Mr Chun and life imprisonment for his fellow defendant and successor as president, Roh Tae-woo.

The two men, retired four-star generals, have been on trial since December on charges of bribery and treason. Spectators applauded the death appeal. — *Andrew Higgins, Hong Kong.*

### Holocaust memorial protest

WORK on a Holocaust memorial by the British artist Rachel Whiteread began in the Austrian capital Vienna yesterday, despite protests from the Jewish community that it could bury for ever the newly-unearthed remains of a medieval synagogue.

Workers started laying the foundations for the sculpture created by the former Turner prizewinner and initiated by Simon Wiesenthal, the Nazi hunter.

The city's Jewish community is afraid that the remains of the synagogue, destroyed in 1421, will be lost to make room for a memorial to Austria's 65,000 Jews murdered in the second world war. The synagogue is said to be the oldest one of its kind in central Europe. — *Kate Connolly, Vienna.*

### Vote to find corrupt officials

IN AN unconventional attempt to stamp out corruption, civil servants in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh have agreed to single out their three most dishonest colleagues by a secret ballot.

Members of the prestigious Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in the northern state said yesterday that they had agreed at a weekend meeting to hold the vote after the local assembly elections later this year.

"Some of us have played the game we should not have played," said Surendra Mohan, president of the Uttar Pradesh IAS Officers' Association, in the capital Lucknow. "We want to put moral and social pressure on errant officers." — *Reuters, Lucknow.*

### 'Help stop vigilante war'

THE National Party premier of the Western Cape appealed to the South African government yesterday to intervene in a war between vigilantes and gangsters in his province. Herms Kriel asked for police reinforcements and a commission of inquiry.

On Sunday a 500-vehicle motorcade of vigilantes drove to the home of a suspected drugs baron, Rashad Staggie (right), in Cape Town and set him ablaze with petrol. He was then shot to death. Eighteen people were injured in exchanges of gun fire. A Muslim vigilante group called "People against Gangs and Drugs" was blamed for the killing. — *David Beresford, Johannesburg.*



PHOTOGRAPH: BENNY GOOL

### More violence hits Algeria

A TRUCK bomb exploded in the centre of the Algerian town of Tiaret on Sunday, wounding dozens of people, an Algerian newspaper, al-Khabar, said yesterday. The early morning blast in the town 140 miles south-west of Algiers caused extensive damage to buildings and shops.

Meanwhile in Algiers, four gunmen kidnapped a lawyer who represented the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front, the party said yesterday. It said Rachid Mesli and two members of his family were seized last Wednesday near the capital's eastern outskirts. — *Reuters, Paris.*

### Bolger drops wild horse cull

THE New Zealand government, facing a general election in two months' time, yesterday scrapped plans to shoot up to 300 wild horses in North Island, Jim Bolger, the prime minister, said the horses would be rounded up and sold instead.

The fate of the animals had become an emotive issue. The conservation department, which was to carry out the cull, said at the weekend that some of its staff had received death threats from animal rights campaigners. — *Reuters, Wellington.*

### US hostage returns in peace

TERRY ANDERSON, the American journalist who was held hostage for nearly seven years in Lebanon, returned yesterday for the first time since his release in 1981 to film a documentary about the country's recovery from civil war.

"The Americans know only about the violent side of Lebanon. I want to tell them about how Lebanon is doing in peacetime," Mr Anderson said. — *AP, Beirut.*

**The alternative is to award the presidency to the first 14-year-old gymnast who demonstrates an ability to piroouette steadily to the right, while balancing on all sides of an issue at once.**

Barbara Ehrenreich

## Plugging the gap in the canal zone

A nationalist dream could lead to economic crisis, writes **Phil Gunson** in Panama City

IT IS Mongolian barbecue night at the officers' club in Quarry Heights, headquarters of the American military's Panama-based Southern Command.

Only a handful of tables in the recently refurbished restaurant are occupied. Outside, the floodlit tennis courts, surrounded by exuberant but carefully groomed tropical vegetation, are unused.

The United States military presence — a dominant factor in Panama's politics since its US-sponsored secession from Colombia in 1903 — is slowly but inexorably drawing to a close.

The 1977 Panama canal treaties require the last of the 7,300 troops based here to leave by midnight on December 31 1999. The eight remaining bases — with about 70,000 acres of land and more than 3,600 buildings — are gradually being transferred to the Panamanian government.

Southern Command (Southcom) itself is due to move to Miami in 12 months' time.

But Panama's joy at the gringos' departure is tempered by nervousness at the potential economic impact.

The Pentagon estimates that the canal zone has a \$370 million (\$245 million) gap in the national economy; 13 per cent of gross domestic product. Most independent experts put the figure much lower.

"It's not true that there will be such a large negative impact," says the president, Ernesto Pérez Balladares. "The fact that the troops' departure coincides with the handover of the canal to Panama means there will be an almost immediate compensation."

Nevertheless, recent polls show that three-quarters of Panamanians would like to see a military presence continue.

Tentatively, wary of a nationalist backlash, the government began to explore the issue with Washington a year ago. But the talks were suspended when a Southcom colonel said publicly that the US would not pay rent for bases.

Time is running out, because there is no money for a defence department budget for a presence beyond 2000.

"The budget cycle of the Pentagon is such that the window will soon be gone," said Ambler Moss, a former US ambassador to Panama. "They must be pretty damn close to the deadline now."

Mr Moss, now director of the North-South Centre at the

University of Miami, believes the sort of presence that might be negotiated would have little direct impact on the economy, but would reassure foreign investors of the country's stability.

From 1968 until 1989, when a US invasion toppled Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama was a military dictatorship. The post-invasion government abolished the armed forces.

Without the foreign, predominantly Asian, investors which the government hopes to attract, the handover is a distinctly mixed blessing.

Mr Moss estimates that it will cost \$25 million just to maintain the buildings when the troops have gone.

Much of the infrastructure that once formed part of the old Canal Zone deteriorated rapidly once it was transferred to the Panamanian government.

The trans-isthmian road is now "one big pothole", according to an occasional user in 1978, is no longer regarded as safe by the US military.

Some of the bases have no obvious alternative use. Although picturesque Fort Amador, at the Pacific end of the canal, will probably be

## Tamil Tigers fiercely resist government troops' advance

**Suzanne Goldenberg in Colombo**

**S**RI LANKAN government soldiers are facing fierce resistance in their slow advance towards the last town held by Tamil Tiger separatist guerrillas, the defence ministry said yesterday.

Both sides appear to have suffered heavy casualties. While the government statement said its soldiers had killed at least 203 rebels, and the guerrillas spoke of 100 "deaths" and the destruction of five army tanks.

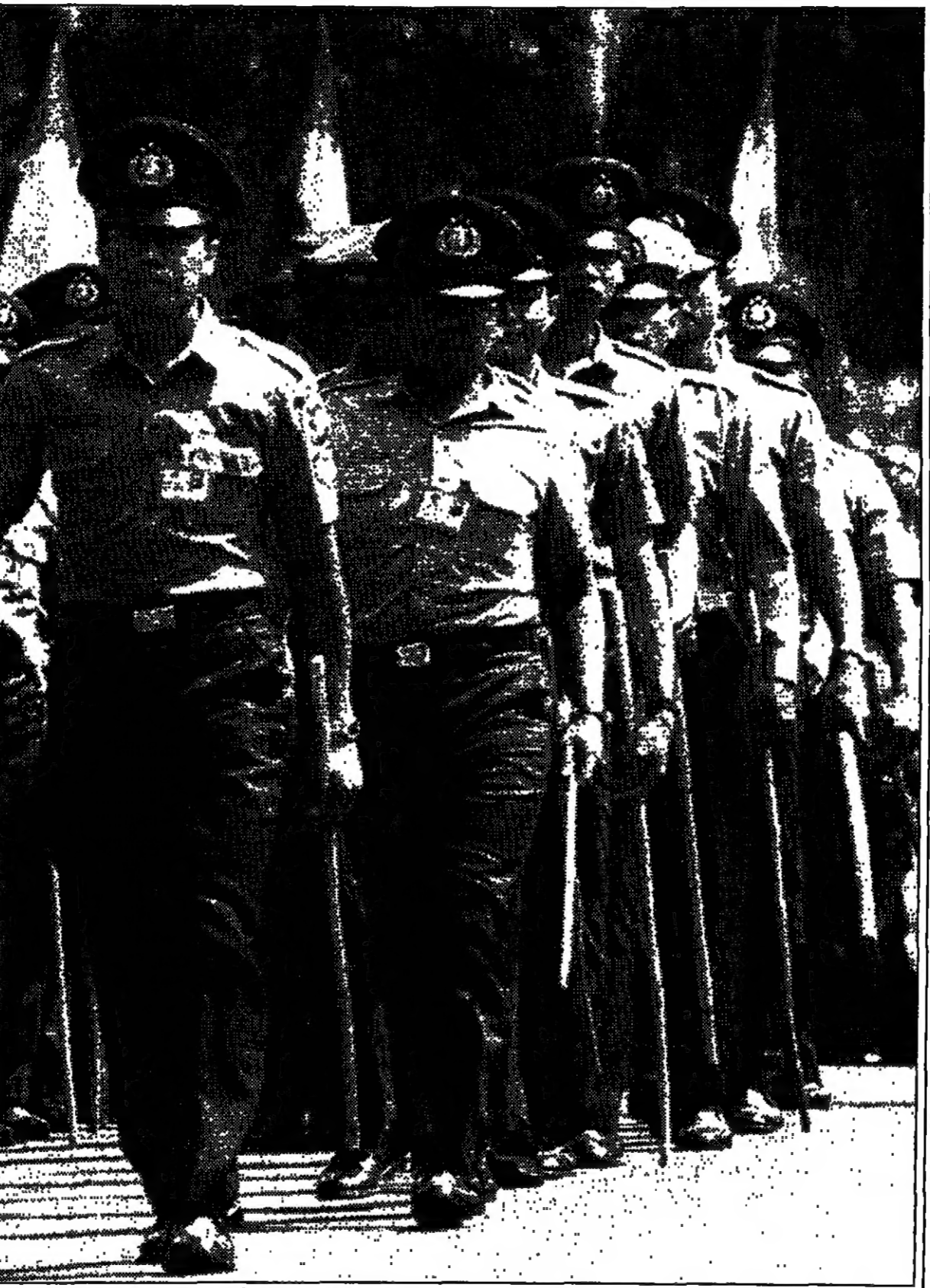
The defence ministry statement said 14 troops had been killed and 32 wounded since the army resumed its push towards the northern town of Kilinochchi on Sunday, ending a week-long lull.

"The advance recommenced this morning and the latest reports indicate that the rebels are offering resistance," it said.

The army said it came under fire from mortars and rocket propelled grenades as soldiers broke out of Paranthan, an outpost of Kilinochchi. It said it had driven rebels from six high bunkers.

The latest fighting follows the army's worst defeat, last month, in the 13 years of civil war, when the Tigers captured a sprawling army camp in Mullativu. By the time the army retook it, only 12 soldiers were alive out of an estimated 1,100.

Kilinochchi, just a few miles from the present fighting, is the only town under Tiger control, and the condition of the civilians trapped in the fighting is uncertain.



Officers line up to prevent the press following Megawati's lawyers into police headquarters

## Megawati waits for police to issue correct summons

**Nick Cumming-Bruce in Jakarta**

**I**NDONESIA'S ousted opposition leader, Megawati Sukarnoputri, has agreed to appear before the police to answer questions about events leading up to the recent riots, but will wait for them to correct flaws in the summons.

Her lawyers spent two

hours at Jakarta's police headquarters yesterday to answer the original summons delivered last week, which they said had several technical flaws.

"There is no choice for the police but to comply with the criminal code," Luhut Pangaribuan of the Legal Aid Foundation said after the meeting. "It is unclear when police will issue the second summons but Megawati will appear as a witness."

Riot police were ready to deal with a demonstration by Megawati supporters, but none turned up.

The police said they were calling in six other members of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), from which Megawati was ousted as chairman in June, including Suryardi, who replaced her as leader.

## Ugandan rebels sow terror at night

The Lord's Resistance Army refuses to be crushed, writes **Anna Borzello** in Gulu

**E**VERY evening, hundreds of people stream into Gulu town, their mattresses balanced on their heads. Some sleep with relatives, others on the floor of the bus park. At dawn, they return to their villages, to be joined by those who have spent the night in the bush.

"We have to go because we are scared that the rebels will come," said a young boy.

Since July, when 500 Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels returned to Uganda from Sudan, there have been five attacks on the suburbs of Gulu, the regional capital. Ten days ago the rebels came as close as the main hotel, looting and burning 180 huts.

A few days earlier a group of 30 stormed Gulu police barracks, taunting the police to come out and fight. Another group abducted 23 schoolgirls from a nearby college.

The LRA — born out of the remnants of Alice Lakwena's Holy Spirit Movement, which was defeated 60 miles from Kampala in 1986 — is led by Lakwena's cousin, the mysterious Joseph Kony.

Mr Kony, a former Catholic Church worker, is said to want to install rule by the Ten Commandments. According to deserters, he believes that the Holy Spirit speaks to him in dreams. His soldiers are mainly abducted boys and girls aged between 12 and 20.

President Yoweri Museveni has been struggling to quell the insurgency in northern Uganda since he came to power in 1986. But while he has successfully contained other rebel groups — including the West Nile Bank Front, whose 2,000-strong force invaded Uganda in May — the LRA always bounces back.

The wards of the hospital in Gulu are filled with the victims of its landmines.

Nobody knows why the LRA is so resilient. The government has often said that as long as Sudan supports the rebels there is little chance of the insurgency ending. The Ugandan army, despite its roots as a guerrilla force, has so far been out-maneuvred.

The rebels move in small groups at night and know the area well. Their target is as likely to be

**The alternative is to award the presidency to the first 14-year-old gymnast who demonstrates an ability to piroouette steadily to the right, while balancing on all sides of an issue at once.**

Barbara Ehrenreich



The Guardian

Tuesday August 6 1996
Edition Number 46,624
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
Fax No. 0171-837 4530
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

On the edges of ethics

One tragic case doesn't mean the law is wrong

A WOMAN, sixteen weeks pregnant, has decided she cannot afford twins and is to have one aborted. It was reported at the weekend. Since it is a confidential matter, there are few other details available. Not that that will stop the passionate lobbies which dominate the abortion debate from pronouncing on the case.

isation where both fetuses are healthy. As Dr Nathanson acknowledged, the case is on "the edges" of normal practice. A doctor has to make a cruel, difficult decision as to which fetus dies and which fetus lives. He knows their sexes and may have told the mother — does the mother then choose?

It appears that the obstetrician in this case, Professor Phillip Bennett of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, was given a choice by the patient either abort one fetus or both. He justified his very difficult decision: "It would be better to terminate one pregnancy as soon as possible and leave one alive than to lose two babies."

But how representative of the mass of opinion are these vocal spokespeople with their clear-cut certainties? For many in the middle, strongly committed to legal abortion, the case triggers an emotional response and uncomfortable dilemmas. Freshly sensitive to the debate after the prolonged publicity over the frozen embryos destroyed last week, people who would be opposed to a change in the current law find the idea of destroying one fetus while leaving the other to live inexplicably repugnant.

Often apologetic for what they describe as irrational, they can find no principle to explain or legitimise their unease. They accept the arguments of the leading member of the British Medical Association, Dr Vivienne Nathanson, who told the Guardian yesterday that there was no new ethical issue in this case.

Dr Nathanson is right. There is nothing to make this different from any other abortion of a 16-week-old fetus; aborting a twin is no different from aborting a child's sibling, ethically. So why the unease? This case is believed to be the first time a selective termination will be performed on an embryo which has not been produced by in-vitro fertil-

The bare outlines of this case leave a host of haunting, unanswerable questions. Chief of these is what the surviving twin is to make of this crucial transition point on its way into the world. His/her life was at the cost of a potential sibling's. There was a crucial period of time in which his/her mother and a doctor may have hovered over the possibility of aborting him/her and leaving the other to live.

The only explanation we have is that the woman is reported as saying she couldn't cope with having two more children. Abortion is always a difficult and painful act for those concerned: as a single mother in "socially strained circumstances" who already has one child, she clearly believes she cannot call on support, either financial or emotional, in our fragmented, individualistic culture. It is this dimension of the story that should really concern us, rather than letting one tragic case be used as an argument for re-examining the existing law.

Seeking justice for the Tigers

South Korea's indictment of past leaders is only the start

WHEN MURDEROUS and corrupt leaders are brought to book — as is now happening in a Seoul courtroom — the balance of past injustice tips a little the other way. It is 16 years since hundreds died in the Kwangju massacre which former presidents Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae-woo are accused of masterminding. Graft on an epic scale, funded by South Korea's giant chaebol conglomerates, has been around for even longer. However late, accounts must be settled before any democratic transition can be completed. Optimistically, the fate of these two once immune powerful figures will (as our Far East correspondent predicted yesterday) cause Asian autocrats from Beijing to Burma to quake with apprehension.

There is a sense in which some kind of regional trend may begin to be discerned. The end of the cold war weakened the conventional case for Western-sponsored dictatorship and also placed into question Japan's one-party democracy. Rising living standards, whether in Taiwan, Korea, or Indonesia, create new middle classes which chafe at old-fashioned repression. The downside of globalisation — a widening gap between rich and poor and expanding areas of exploitation — also leads to unrest. This is an important, though underrated, factor now in Indonesia's social ferment. Voices of protest, from within these countries as well as from outside, are transmitted more clearly. Horrendous events such as the Beijing, Rangoon and Dili massacres have sensi-

tised public opinion and the international media. The "dinosaurs" who still rule are more clearly exposed.

Yet we should be cautious about declaring an outbreak of economic and political justice across Asia. The news from Indonesia only wins headlines because the Suharto regime has remained unchallenged for so long; his critics are still vulnerable to jail and worse. The Burmese junta may have eased the pressure on itself by releasing Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest. While hundreds of her supporters remain in prison, only a few foreign companies are thinking twice about inward investment. And in South Korea, the drive against the former presidents is not unconnected with the desire of the present incumbent, Kim Young-sam, to improve his own image which has also been tarnished by the receipt of chaebol funds.

Oppression in Asia no longer takes the invariable form of military repression: the market for juntas is diminishing. But the doctrine of neo-authoritarianism, mediated through tame political institutions, has powerful appeal. Western governments have come to terms with China's version of it; next year could see a Clinton-Jiang summit. For millions of Asians, the real issues are not so much formal democracy or its absence. They are those of everyday corruption, unsafe working conditions, mounting drugs and crime, and a huge rich-poor gap. To tackle all these will require a real Asian miracle.

When Ofel dials wrong numbers

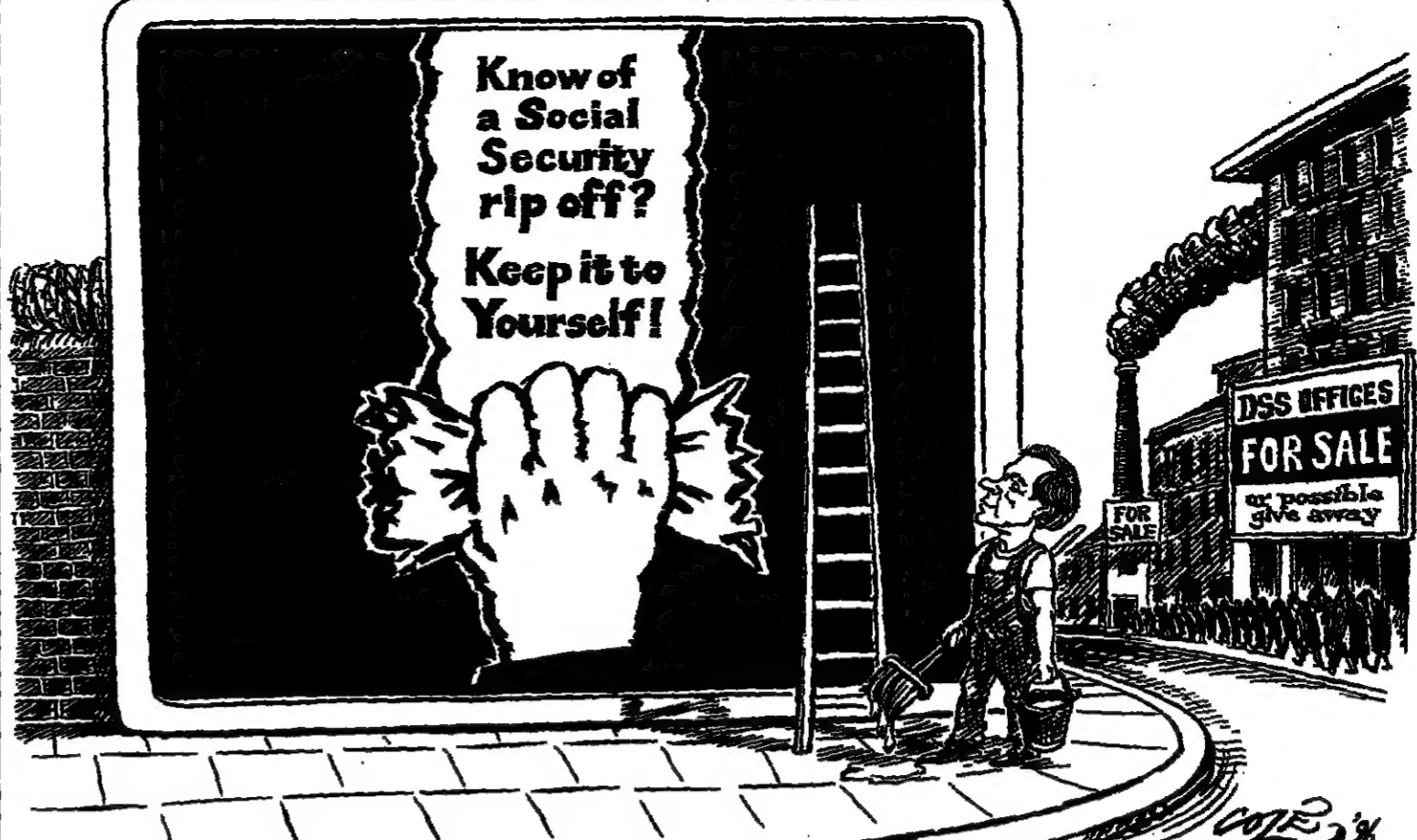
To do so once is a misfortune, but twice is carelessness

DON CRUCKSHANK, director general of Ofel, says he is not "proud" to break his promise of last year that the new dialling codes introduced on Phoneday would not need to change again. Quite right. It almost sounds like an apology. The shift to the 01 prefix was designed to allow a new range of dialling codes in the medium term. To fill immediate gaps, Bristol, Leeds, Leicester, Nottingham and Sheffield were given new codes and extra digits; and that was supposed to be that.

Until yesterday when Ofel unveiled plans to break the Cruickshank pledge. To the dismay of London, Cardiff, Belfast, Southampton and Portsmouth, came the announcement that new dialling codes are needed immediately to meet "urgent" excess demand that cannot wait. Problems so urgent they weren't thought to be important on Phoneday fifteen months ago. Nor for that matter were new parallel codes for

Reading, rushed through in April this year. Who, pray, will regulate the regulator? This is no fun for households, but a real pain in the neck for small businesses. Pity the poor London firm that went from 01 to 071 in 1991, to 0171 last year, and which now faces a change to 0207. New stationery for a typical small firm can cost £200 or more, and new livery for vehicles anything up to £2,000 per vehicle.

Why were all these cities missed during last year's changes? The error is explained away by the "booming" economy over the last fifteen months (you could have fooled us) leading to explosive demand for numbers that Ofel in its wisdom failed to anticipate. Mr Cruickshank admitted "I have to say our ability to forecast the increase in numbers isn't very good". We'll second that. Bob Hoskins keeps telling us it's good to talk. It's not a bad idea to count us well.



Letters to the Editor

No training, no medals

YOUR leader (Not so hot in Atlanta, August 5) makes light of Britain's lack of Olympic success. Yes, there is a thin line between success and failure in sport, but this flippancy masks the underlying lack of funding and commitment in many other areas of British life.

There's no Olympics in science or maths or numbers of patents granted to raise these to such a high profile, but comparisons of standards in Britain with those in France, Germany and Scandinavia indicate that students in these countries are already ahead of British students by over a year at age 13 or 14. And in comparison with Far Eastern countries, the gap widens to two or more years. The lack of commitment, and ergo funding, by this government to anything which constitutes training — in sport, education or apprenticeships — will leave a legacy of Britain sinking steadily down most international league tables. (Dr) Jane Doody, 17 Clarence Road, London SW19 9QL.

sporting calendar. For those of us watching on television — the vast majority, after all — there is no sporting event that is less commercial than the Olympics; uniquely in modern sport, the spotlight falls only on the competitors, without distraction from anyone or anything else.

The Atlanta Olympics brought together the best athletes from nearly every country. Athletes from the poorest of nations, such as Niger, Burkina Faso or Burundi, lined up next to superstars; without the Olympics, they would never get the chance to take part on the world stage. Before the present era of human history, such a convocation of the world's peoples for peaceful competition was impossible. Yet, rather than relate the privilege of witnessing the Olympic Games to the public at home, British reporters can only attack flaws in the system.

So what is corrupting the Olympic spirit? The largesse of the mandarins from the IOC? The corporate dollars that pay for everything? Or is it cynicism in the media? Probably all three, but I think the latter should shoulder more of the blame. (Dr) Mark Smith, 18 Atwell Close, Wallingford, Oxon.

JAMES Melbie (Major falls at the first hurdle, August 3) is right to highlight the muddled messages being given to sport on government policy. The past few months have been a very depressing time for those of us in governing bodies involved in the education of coaches. The impression has been given by the Department for Education and Employment that sports-coaching courses have been identified as an area where funding can be saved.

In basketball we have developed partnerships with colleges to enable them to offer our coaching qualifications to their students and our members. Recent changes in regulations now threaten these partnerships. Although the Further Education Funding Council may say that it is not engaged in "an attack on sport", the seminars for colleges to explain the new tighter funding regulations have clearly attacked sports coaching. For John Major to transform British sport, government departments must take a lesson from our gold-medal rowers and all pull in the same direction.

Ernie Coleman, Senior Technical Officer, English Basketball Association, 48 Bradford Road, Stanningley, Leeds LS28 5DF.



RICHARD Williams (Guardian Sport, August 5) provides an accurate summary of the Atlanta Olympics — if only as it has been portrayed by the British media. He joins other pundits and commentators who have spent the last two weeks crying and stamping their feet over rampant commercialism in the contemporary Olympics. I mean while, and a few billion or so other people around the world, have been treated to a riveting festival of human endeavour in arenas that were completely free of advertising, unlike any other international event in the

Stay tuned for another tense radio drama from Bush House

IN THE Sahelian village (where I work, the number of radios (amongst a population of 740) could have been counted on the fingers of one hand 22 years ago. Now, as I stroll through the darkened streets when firm work is done, I can hear one in every second or third household, and it is listened to by women and children as well as by men.

What do they listen to? The BBC Hausa language service, a window on a new and changing world, is an indefatigable beacon for rural communities struggling to adapt to social and political change, an adult-educational system where few can read or write and primary-school attendance is less than 10 per cent, an independent news service where local radio stations are controlled by a repressive military regime.

The World Service is the most cost-effective form of development aid provided by Britain in the Third World. It does not foster "development dependency", but leaves its listeners self-reliant through better informed. It cancels remoteness, extending membership of the global village to villagers (not to mention the underprivileged of the cities). It has outgrown its parent and taken on a life of its own. Is it too much to ask the BBC Board of Governors to recognise a global constituency among the underserved? Michael Mortimore, African Drylands Research, Cutlers' Cottage, Glovers' Close, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 5ER.

ERNEST Newhouse's letter (July 30) promoting British Broadcasting Corporation is indeed correct in explaining that for many years the World Service was able to draw on a wide range of BBC facilities and services while only paying the "marginal cost" of their provision. All other parts of the BBC, of course, bore the full cost of these services.

When Producer Choice was introduced in April 1993 one of the key aims was a major attack on BBC overheads, right across the organisation. This produced remarkable results, including an immediate reduction in overheads of around a quarter when Producer Choice went live. Of equal importance, though, is the ongoing pressure which is now continuously applied to overheads. All overhead and service departments must agree with their users a service level and associated price for the services provided.

This change has made much more visible the true cost to programme makers of the many support functions provided in their name, and has given a clear incentive to them to find better and cheaper ways of getting things done. So, far from being about administrative tidiness, this change is about keeping costs down.

Mr Newhouse rightly wants to ensure World Service funds do not end up supporting domestic radio and television. Equally he will understand that we have to ensure that the licence-fee-payer gets best value for money from the licence fee, and does not unfairly subsidise other services.

John Smith, Deputy Finance Director, British Broadcasting Corporation, 16 Langham Street, London W1A 1AA.

Our Westminster correspondent's correspondence

LAST week David Hencke (wrongly) promised that Peter Lilley would announce on August 2 a shortlist of suppliers to take over the Department of Social Security's property management responsibilities. He confused a closing date for expressions of interest with a decision. The article "Treasury sweetens DSS sale" (August 5) continues to confuse.

The DSS is responsible for 1.7 million square metres of office space in more than 700 properties. The estate costs the taxpayer around £160 million in annual rental charges alone. We are looking to see whether we can reduce that cost while securing the office space we need.

Before we launched this project we had discussions with a wide number of property companies to test its feasibility. We also took Treasury advice on the balance between capital receipts and reduced running costs over the life of any agreement — a standard lease on any Private Finance Initiative deal which involves transfer of assets (not "sweetening" a sale). We are now at an early stage in the procurement process, run to a publicly announced timetable that will not be finished before autumn 1997; simply the time it will take to do it properly.

Whether the DSS property portfolio does eventually transfer to the private sector depends on one thing alone: whether that transfer increases value for money for the taxpayer.

DAVID Hencke (Treasury sweetens DSS sale, August 5) has again put us in his debt. He has discovered that "the Treasury is preparing to offer sweeteners worth hundreds of millions of pounds to encourage property developers to conclude a £4 billion deal to buy the nation's Social Security offices".

Ministers have recently accused me of indifference to the interests of the taxpayer because I was prepared to spend £200 million keeping

several thousand innocent asylum-seekers alive. Now they are willing to spend maybe twice that sum of taxpayers' money in leaving presents for their friends. Next time they accuse me of indifference to taxpayers' interests, can any of your readers think of a prizemake reply I could make to them?

Lord Russell, Liberal Democrat Social Security Spokesperson, House of Lords, London SW1A 0AA.

CONSERVATIVE Central Office spend a lot of time creating a false impression of division and rancour in the Labour Party, and so the Tory Lie Machine will be especially pleased with David Hencke's efforts to show me and Alastair Campbell at odds with Clare Short (Short given her role at conference, August 5). For the record, neither of us knows or would be consulted about Clare's role at conference. To report us as being "diametrically" in pure invention. Peter Mandelson MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Out and about while inside

ALAN Travis's piece about the revised Prison Rules on time in the open air (Implies lose right to hour's exercise, July 23) appears to have misled Alan Baldwin (Letters, July 27). There used to be a requirement for prisoners not involved in outdoor working to have at least an hour's exercise in the open air each day. The change has provided a more flexible alternative. Governors still have discretion to restrict outdoor time if prisoners need to spend in the open, although at least an hour remains the ideal.

Today most prisoners are involved in work, training or other activities and are able to walk around the prison, often outside the confines of the prison buildings, with additional time in the open air. Prisoners who are confined to their cells and have no other opportunity to be in the open air need the chance to spend at least an hour in the segregation-unit exercise yard each day — this is entirely appropriate on humanitarian and health grounds.

A.J. Pearson, Director of Security and Programmes, HM Prison Service, Cleland House, Page Street, London SW1P 4LN.

Twin perks

REGARDING the new and complex practice of selective fertilisation where twins might be an inconvenience ("No new issue" in abortion of twin, August 5), would it not be more practical if both fetuses were carried to term? Being given the judge such attributes as hair colour, cuddliness, etc. the mother could make a more informed choice as to which child to destroy. This could be achieved quite simply by a single, and much cheaper, lethal injection.

John Carley, Prospect Road, Ravenstall, Rossendale, Lancs BB4.

Boom that hits the bust

THE IMF's forecast of economic growth may have hidden benefits (IMF backs Budget free of tax cuts, July 27). One of the least reported but most widely felt effects of the recent years of economic squeeze has been the literal interpretation clothing manufacturers have put on the necessity to tighten our belts. In time-honoured tradition, they have passed on the constraints of becoming leather and fitter to the consumer, by the simplest expedient of making drastic reductions in elastic waistbands, whether in underwear, hosiery or outer garments, have become instruments of torture, giving the term "downsizing" a whole new meaning.

Normally size 10-12, I find myself depressingly forced into sizes ranging from 14 to 08 in order to keep the circulation flowing freely. For fiscal squeeze, read visceral squeeze. How people who started off size 16 ever find anything fit is a mystery.

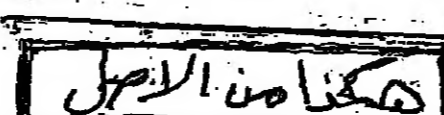
I suspect the great elastic conspiracy is restricted to women's clothing, otherwise Mr Clarke would be unable to maintain his irrepressible jocularity, and Mr Major would certainly find it impossible to wear his underpants on the outside. We know it's hurting, but we can only hold our breath and pray that threats of tighter controls will give way to an expanding economy.

Sierra Eufonia-Wilson, Priory Cottage, Church View, Somerset BA4 6HY.

A Country Diary

CHEESHIRE: The annual appearance in late summer of swarms of black garden ants usually occurs on a hot, sultry day — typical thundery weather — which has given the ant a reputation in local folklore of being able to anticipate storms. From their nest sites under paving stones, patios and stone walls the members of each colony pour out into the open on the chosen day in one synchronised emergence. It is the winged males and virgin queens that swarm up into the sky, mating in mid-air, after which the males die and the fertilised queens break off bits of their new nest site. Whilst all this is happening above, the wingless workers — non-breeding families — mill about over the ground of black ant hills, the former outside the former colony home. This year the swarms appeared on July 19, a week earlier than in 1995, and the numbers involved, although still impossible to esti-

mate, were far less than last year. It was a warm, slightly humid day but on this occasion the insects' foresight skills were proven wrong — we had no thunder. Another annual event took place three weeks later this year than in 1995 — my count of the season's orchids on a local roadside embankment. Most of the Common Spotted-Orchids had flowered, seeded and withered, but it was obvious that they had not been as prolific this year with numbers estimated at around 2,000, a dramatic reduction in last year's total of more than 2,000. The fourth year in succession since it was first found on the site in 1992, there was only one plant of the Pyramidal Orchid, but the 12 Bee Orchids was the best showing for the species since 1991. The Fragrant Orchids were their peak, 169 of them, each tall spike packed with bright pink, sweetly scented flowers. J.M. THOMPSON





Diary  
Matthew Norman

In the row about Ted Heath's £35,000 payment from the Moonies, one voice is strangely silent. It is the voice of rational Paul Johnson. But why the reticence? Could it be that Paul has done well himself out of the Unification Church? Although it is unclear if he, like Sir Edward, has been paid for speaking publicly (Paul declines to return calls), in 1992 he was the only British MP to accept US Moonie chief Larry Mof-fatt's invitation to a Korean conference. This coincided with so impressive a 30,000-person mass-wedding that, on returning, he argued in the Spectator that Prince Charles should have left his marriage plans to the Reverend Moon too. For years Paul has sold book reviews to Moonie-owned Washington Times (at his peak, five years ago, 80 or 90 a week). Embarrassingly, an even bigger deal is as moraliser-in-chief to the Daily Mail, a paper that only yesterday referred proudly to its 1978 victory against the Moonies and their "brainwashing techniques". Mannerly editor Paul Dacre was "too busy" yesterday to discuss whether his paper's attitude to the Moonies has changed. If not, it is hard to see how Paul's position can be tenable.

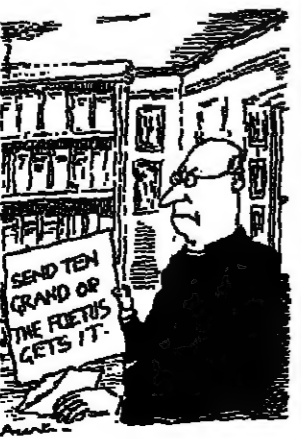
A FURTHER breakthrough is reported in the continuing battle of police to shake off a reputation for dim-wittedness. The Merseyside force has just spent £19,000 on a BMW motorbike laden with all the latest video equipment. Police magazine reports: "Since it is meant for undercover patrol work on motorways, the police have been extremely careful to ensure the absence of any identifying markings. And to celebrate its acquisition, they inserted a picture of the bike, with registration clearly displayed, in the local press."

AFTER his outburst about the aroma of the capital's West End, Trevor Nunn is giving his nostrils a well-earned rest in the north London suburbs. Tonight and tomorrow night, he will be off to the alpine freshness of Enfield, where Chicken Shed — the much-admired theatre company that integrates young able-bodied and disabled performers — performs its musical version of A Midsummer Night's Dream. So impressed with this was Mr Nunn earlier this year, that he requested a reprise. Others keen to enjoy what Andrew O'Hagan described in this paper as "one of the best nights in London this year" can call the box office on 0181 449 1155.

CHICKEN Shed is one of the 100 or so charities caringly dumped by Princess Diana, but we have hopes that she will begin to correct this soon by taking on Bolmondely Relief. Given that several events are even now being planned to help Peter Bottomley and his wife, you can imagine my horror on reading an extract of a letter to Sirs from the Mir-Simon Coombs in the Mirror: "For £500 you would be able to discuss issues of concern to you informally over breakfast with Virginia Bolmondely," writes Mr Coombs. Informally over breakfast... what kind of euphemism is that? Hang on, Ginny, hang on. Help is at hand, I promise you. Just a little while longer.

IT is his favourite local department in Alders of Croydon, that concerns Terry Major-Ball when we ring. "They have beautiful ornaments, especially the little animals," he explains. "You can buy two others, for instance, and one will be reclining, while the other will be sitting on a tree. And there's a little pool between them with pebbles... and the pool will be smooth plastic that looks very much like water. Lovely, it looks." And upon this aesthetic note, we say our farewells.

THE plans of Repton in New Zealand to celebrate being the first southern-hemisphere town to have public electricity floundered at the weekend when, minutes before the "First Light Festival", an electrical storm caused a six-hour total electricity blackout.



# He who hesitates shows wisdom

## Commentary Hugo Young

HAVE in my possession some Cabinet papers on the issue of the moment. They express very clearly Britain's dilemma over the European single currency. The agonising is posed with more authority than a journalist could bring, and more honesty than a politician would dare attempt. For these are official papers. By the exactness of their rendition they do honour to the Whitehall mandarins who wrote them. So I hope they will be excused the inevitable utility of a leak inquiry.

she can withstand "the full blast of German competition" will determine whether this further union goes ahead. On the whole, say the officials, it is unlikely. The potential members probably do not have "the tenacity required to achieve the task upon which they have embarked". That can't, however, be absolutely relied on, and if the project does, after all, succeed, it would be "contrary to our interests". It would "lead on by stages to further economic integration and ultimately perhaps to political federation — developments which public opinion in this country is not at present prepared to contemplate". Yet that only exposes the scale of Britain's dilemma. Staying out now would put us in a "disadvantageous negotiating position" if we later needed to get in. It could be "very embarrassing", says another paper. The other countries will be part of something shaped "without taking account of our interests".

So, the officials conclude, "we are really confronted with a choice of evils". "If it comes into being with us outside it, we should pay an increasing price commercially." But even that "would not necessarily outweigh the political objections to joining". If at all possible, therefore, EMU "should be frustrated". Everything within the canons of diplomatic prudence should be used against it. This might be seen as an attempt at "sabotage" — as indeed it would be. But "we must clearly try to prevent it happening if we can".

pean Community, was a big error anyway. The middle-grounders might deny the parallel, on the grounds that EMU is not a necessary adjunct to the single market. Others again could argue that a fatal hesitation in 1995 would now be the same of prudence in a world that has totally changed. The fundamental choice, however, remains. The continuities of the History According to Denman are almost certain to present themselves. The opportunities for Britain to frustrate the choice by sabotage or any other expedient are negligible, so even though the economic context is different, the existential question is not. There is likely, at some stage, to be an EMU, and the dithering of the British political class will again be provided with an opportunity to display itself in all its embarrassment.

## Britain might no longer be in charge of her own destiny

opportunity to review the quality of its collective judgment 40 years ago. Most of the prophetic axioms on which it based its withdrawal from Messina have been blown to smithereens. Britain's world role, her throbbing Commonwealth, her powerful economic prospects, her sacred reserve currency, all of which were thought to be unassailable, are threatened by any dabbling with the Common Market, proved to be chimeras. Above all, the disbelief that permeated Whitehall concerning the ability of the Europeans to stick together for five minutes, let alone 40 years, turned out to be the greatest misjudgment of the half-

tury. The modern moral of this story, however, is not what it appears to be. In one respect, time has moved on. Hesitation is no longer to be seen as the posture of cowardly officials and politicians, unable to face the facts about their country. It has become the ultimate form of political wisdom. Indecision is the only available expedient for politicians wishing to keep open the possibilities that EMU presents.

Decisiveness, now, is the call not of those who wish to advance the European project but those who wish to abort it. They probably can't stop EMU happening, but they desire to stop Britain from ever joining it. This is the only meaning, though usually the concealed purpose, of the proposal they hope John Major will be seduced into adopting. By ruling out entry in 1999, or 2000, or 2001, or the whole of the next Parliament, that is what he would be doing, and he knows it. Rejecting EMU now, under whatever temporary guise, is seen by those who shout for it as but the first step towards disengagement from the European project. It is as if the Messina officials had said: even if the Common Market works, we will never join it.

# The cockroach and the flea go for gold



Barbara Ehrenreich

NO ONE is sure how the decision was made to stage the presidential race as an Olympic event — actually, as it turned out, a rather special Olympic event: given the candidates' shared physical handicap. For by July 1996, Bill Clinton — having adopted his opponent's welfare policy, economic policies and non-sensence — approached to the criminal underworld — had cleverly developed a withered right arm of his own, which he is careful to use only in private for salting the occasional French fry. The press was all for it of course, since they are already so skilful at the famed "horse-race" style of campaign coverage. Can Dole keep the huge gender gap? How long will Bill be able to stagger under the burden of a criminal wife?

simple cost-saving measure by the chief executive officers who sponsor both the candidates and the Olympics. Insiders relate how a man with enormous stature in fried chicken sat down with a soft-drink kingpin and reasoned: why pay to fly the candidates all over the country for photo ops with overweight voters when we have the crowds, the press corps, and the photographic gods all conveniently massed in Atlanta? The only possible glitch was that the Olympics are traditionally an international event, featuring thousands of contenders from little-known nations. If Bob and Bill squared off, other nations might want to enter their own spare candidates: Zyuganov for the high-speed police competition, for example, or Peres for the aerobic bombing play-offs. But fortunately NBC has solved that problem by eliminating all foreigners from its coverage, so that, no matter who enters the games, Americans need only see Americans compete. Whenever it's someone else's turn, the camera wanders off to focus on our athletes' fascinating personal dramas, as if to suggest that the only opponents an American ever has to worry about are asthma, tendonitis and low self-esteem.

THE big question is what sort of events to schedule for the all-important Bill-Bob competition. There must be a modicum of dignity, the White House insists, meaning that no candidate is given a choice of flavours. Tax-cutting has been proposed, since the candidates are already warming up for it. Bob promises a "fatter" tax. Bill is said to favour one that contains fluttering wings. Or there might be an "arms race", with the prize going to the candidate who can come up with the most arcane and expensive weapons system, and, ideally, a plausible enemy to use it on. There is excitement, too, about the possibility of a long-distance child-abuse event. Bill has already announced his plan to put the little ones — or "predators", as they are now known in law-enforcement circles — in uniforms resembling the loose-fitting striped ensembles favoured by chain-gang participants. Bob promises to go further, sending any child found out of uniform to a prison filled with 40-year-old child molesters, unless said child has already been confined by its parents to a playpen. Bill is expected to counter by signing a welfare bill that will plunge an estimated million children into poverty, and is questioning the playpen exemption. The alternative, of course, is to award the presidency to the first 14-year-old, 70-lb gymnast who demonstrates an ability to prowl steadily to the right, while balancing on all sides of an issue at once.



# Let the bids roll in

## Grey Gowrie celebrates his part in handing out millions of lottery pounds — and argues that it has been money well spent on investment in the arts

SOMETIMES, when the Arts Council of England has awarded money from the National Lottery to a facility for the arts, I get letters of complaint. Why have we ignored the claims of cancer, perhaps, or children with rare diseases? I reply to each one, pointing out that the caring charities also receive a fifth of the lottery proceeds for good causes and that we would break the law if we gave money outside the arts, as Parliament decreed. The argument then switches to Parliament's original intention. The tabloids, most vexatious, have recently made life much easier. When the Sun, for example, writes a Sun-rage leader about the award for the sculptor Andy Goldsworthy's sheep-pen restorations in the Cumbria — and how I wish our friends wrote in English as well as our enemies — the paper is not cross that Goldsworthy has been preferred over Richard Long, say. The Sun has come out of the closet now and declared that lottery cash should be added to general taxation, at least in respect of the health service. We must sit up and take notice, however, when respected MPs like Hugh Bayley and Greville Janner campaign against what they be-

lieve is a system loaded towards London. And I do also receive letters after we have made some award, not necessarily in London, asking, "Why haven't you done something for us?" It is unavoidable that a relatively small country like England will, over the centuries, have located her major constitutional, political, legal and cultural institutions in the nation's capital. Parliament is in Westminster, and is itself recipient as well as donor of huge sums of infrastructural investment in recent years: an underground car park, new offices for MPs, a complete restoration of the rotten roof of the House of Lords. If Parliament wills that part of the proceeds of the lottery is to be devoted to capital investment in cultural facilities, it is unsurprising that some of our big national flagships — the opera and dance houses, the major theatres, concert halls and contemporary art galleries — will be eligible to bid to us for it. They have been starved of investment all my adult life and I am in my 50s. No wonder they were beating on my doors, virtually from day one. Even in the driest economic terms, making no reference at all to artistic or spiritual values or to the quality of life and the need to maintain and refashion a civil-

isation, such investment is sensible. Millions of people visit London from all over the world. They do not come for the sun and the beaches. They come on business and come for our heritage and our cultural liveliness. It is inaccurate, as well as insulting, to think of "lurvers" as peripheral or unimportant. After oil, pharmaceuticals and financial services, tourism and the leisure industries and the arts are the engines of our economy. They are the way we earn our living as a small offshore island in a competitive world. London is central to this. London, not England, is the competitor here to New York, Paris and, before long, Berlin. Then again Bayley, Janner and others, including some Conservative MPs, should in fairness look at the demographics. Over a million people travel in and out of London every day to work. A substantial portion travels in and out to play. London is a cultural resource for the whole nation and for the world. It is a daily resource for most of the population of southern England. Ironically, we are worryingly short of viable bids from London the capital. We want more community and localised bids from London the region — recently a depressed region after all, which suffered far more in the recession than is realised outside. Our case would be weak, however, if large awards to London were a strategic imperative, a policy, rather than the result of facing reality. Very large awards, over £10 million, have been made outside London. Here our de-

been made all over the country. For example, £5.5 million for the National Glass Museum in Sunderland; £4.4 million for the Contact Theatre in Manchester; £3.7 for the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham; and £2.5 million for the Hall for Cornwall in Truro. As the Prime Minister, who engineered the lottery and saw it pass through Parliament with all-party support, put it to me when I was appointed: "I want Britain to have the best cultural and sporting facilities in Europe within 10 years." It is an achievable aim. To the question "why haven't you done anything for us?" I answer: "You have to bid for the money. We do not sit and plot what is good for you. You decide." And 75 per cent of our awards by number are for less than £100,000 and reaching every community in the land. Things may change with the Secretary of State's welcome new directives allowing us to make awards to people as well as buildings; and we are worried by the Treasury's continual top-slicing of the small grant for participating core cultural support. But so far, we can look people in the eyes and say that not one award, not even the grant to the Royal Opera House, has been made at the expense of any other. We have sufficient money. As the all-party Select Committee of the House of Commons, chaired by Labour's Gerald Kaufman, concluded: "Just for once, let us praise something which has been done well and gone right."

**We don't want you to send us any money**

During current postal delays  
**Pay for your TV licence at ANY POST OFFICE**  
Simply take your TV Licence renewal form along to your nearest post office. If you are buying a licence for the first time, pick up an application form and pay at the counter.

You may also pay by  
**Switch, Delta or Connect**  
by phoning  
**0345 544 544**  
A TV Licence costs £89.50 for colour and £30 for black and white.

Remember, if you watch television without the right licence you risk a fine of up to £1,000.

Lord Gowrie is Chairman of the Arts Council of England



Abdulrahman Mohamed Babu

# Free thinking in Zanzibar

ABDULRAHMAN Mohamed Babu, who has died aged 71, was a significant figure in the Pan-African movement of the 1960s, a key player in the run-up to the Zanzibar revolution of January 1964.

Babu was also an influential thinker, as a cabinet minister in Tanzania mainland politics from 1964-71 and, later from London, in the debate about multi-party politics in Africa. These periods of political activity were interspersed by a period in prison in mainland Tanzania on a charge that Babu had masterminded the assassination of Sheikh Karume, the first president of Zanzibar in 1978.

The early 1960s saw Babu studying journalism in London. By then he had already come to identify with the anti-colonial movement. When he returned to Zanzibar in 1957, he had built significant links with the community powers which he saw as the most effective allies in the fight against colonialism. In August 1964, he told me: "They (the communists) are not confused about South Africa, they don't give the Portuguese arms, they know what they think about southern Rhodesia."

In the shifting sands of Zanzibar politics up to independence in January 1964, his principle allegiance was with the "left wing" of the Zanzibar Nationalist Party (ZNP),

which he sought to turn into a party closely allied to the internationalist movements. However, this proved to be a position which could not be sustained against the party's more conservative elements.

In 1963, Babu therefore walked out of the ZNP and established his own "Umma Party" which became the focus of support for those who thought that independence meant more than a nationalistic government and that it should embrace both a domestic and international economic re-alignment. However, in the 1963 eve of independence poll, it was the ZNP alliance, with a breakaway faction of the Afro Shirazi Party (ASP) which formed Zanzibar's newly independent government. It was not to last. Within a month a revolutionary force, which had some links to the Umma Party, but was led by a Kenyan migrant labourer, John Okello, seized power. In the aftermath Okello himself was removed, Karume of the ASP came to power and formed a government in which Babu was Minister of External Affairs and Trade.

It was a stormy time in which the small island state received extraordinary attention in the politics of the cold war. A critical choice facing Zanzibar lay in the question of whether to join a potential East African federation — then being pushed by the UK, and for which Julius Nyerere had even offered to delay Tanzania's independence. Babu was doubtful, believing that it would be controlled by forces hostile to his internationalist leftist stance. The outcome, in the wake of US pressure (or-

cheated by Frank Carlucci, US consul in the island and later President Reagan's Secretary of Defence), was a union between Zanzibar and Tanganyika: to be known as the United Republic of Tanzania (URT).

Babu bitterly opposed the union, which he saw as compromising Zanzibar's sovereignty and its scope to play a role in the internationalist, "third world" movement. As part of the deal with the mainland government, he was given a place in the Tanzanian cabinet. In his ministerial capacity — eventually in the Economic Affairs and Development Planning portfolio — he provided the most important intellectual challenge to President Nyerere.

Babu, a refreshingly flexible Marxist, adopted the position that the forces of capital should be allowed to continue to accumulate before they could be handed over to the people. In real terms, this meant he opposed the nationalisation of all wholesale trade (then largely in the hands of the Indian community) in 1971. It was to be the end of any effective working relationship with Nyerere.

HOWEVER, his position became more serious in April 1972 when Karume was assassinated while playing chess and drinking coffee outside the party headquarters in Zanzibar. Babu, who that day had been fishing off Zanzibar's coast, was accused by the government in Zanzibar of masterminding the assassination. Babu was arrested on his return to the mainland



Beyond Africa... Babu with Malcolm X (left), no cause was ever too helpless to espouse

Appreciation: Mohammed Aided

# Lord of chaos and destruction

BY ALL accounts, Mohammed Farah Aided (*obituary*, August 5) was a master destroyer, a man who would rather demolish what he could not have. Now that he is dead, one is left only with the impressions of those who met his charm and those who met his rage when he wasn't having his way. A journalist I know described him, when angry, as a dog with rabies.

Mogadishu tells the tale of his (and Mahdi's) madcap adventures — a city still bearing the scars of his savagery. We were not destined to meet, because I arrived in Mogadishu in the very fortnight when defeat had taken the wind from his sails. He had just been rendered homeless following brutal fighting between his forces and those of Ceatso's. Nor did he consent to "receive" a German parliamentary delegation putting up in the same guesthouse as I. One is not "received" by the men who had the nation's blood on their hands; and one is made to show one's gratitude.

He was his worst enemy, always fluffing. He could have had the presidency for a song. Only he didn't play his cards right.

Every warlord was an ally of his at one time. Aided could boast a list longer than anyone's when it comes to the number of friends whom he alienated. I keep running into former allies of his, and these speak with the bitterness of a wife betrayed. Often he is compared to Siyad Barre, on whom he had modelled himself, two tyrants unable to invent a world in which they alone were not supreme!

Jean Muir

# Rebel without the roles

If you were men, as men you are in show. You would not use a gentle lady so Helena in A Midsummer Night's Dream

IN 1935, Jean Muir, who has died aged 85, appeared as an enchanting Helena in Max Reinhardt's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a curious cultural concoction featuring a newly formed Bros contract players. With Dick Powell (Lyander), Ross Alexander (Demetrius) and Olivia de Havilland (Hermia), Jean Muir was one of the most promising young stars at the studio. The fall (6'9"), the studio, a simple blonde, with a delightfully warm personality, seemed assured of a bright future in Hollywood. But successive roles in mediocre B films had, by 1950, irrevocably destroyed her career.

Jean Muir paid a heavy price in reactionary Hollywood for being an intelligent, independent and inquiring woman. Immediately after she was put under contract to Warner Bros in 1935, she was active in the newly formed Screen Actors' Guild (SAG), a union set up to protect motion picture performers. Muir was also nicknamed "the studio pest" because of her tendency to question every phase of the movie-making business. "That Muir girl drives me crazy," commented one director, "I could cheerfully drown her, but I want her in my next picture." Like Katharine Hepburn and Louise Rainer, among the few rebels within the studio system of the 1930s, Muir wore no makeup off-



Jean Muir... her career dived after she was "exposed" as a communist sympathiser

screen, and resisted posing for publicity photographs. "I'm not pretty. I have no sex appeal. I wear clothes like cornfield scarecrows," she remarked inaccuracy.

Muir had arrived in Hollywood after being spotted on Broadway in *Saint Vench* (1933). She had made her debut playing an ingenue in Ivor Novello's *The Truth Game* (1930) starring the actress, and her screen debut came in *The World Changes* (1933), a Paul Muni saga, and was promptly given the leading feminine role opposite the vastly popular comedian Joe E Brown in *Son of a Sailor* in the same year. As *The Earth Turns* (1934) saw her as a farmer's daughter who falls in love with a Polish boy (Donald Woods), and helps him make a success as a farmer. From rural innocence, Muir changed to urban naivety in *A Modern Hero* (1934), the only American film directed by the German G.W. Pabst. In this tale of the rise and fall of a ruthlessly ambitious young man (Richard Barthelmess), Muir played the naive daughter of the putative tycoon.

She made 14 pictures in her first three years at Warner Bros, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, but most were inconsequential and did not satisfy her. In fact, two of her more substantial roles were for 20th Century-Fox in *White Fang* (1936), based on Jack London, and for RKO in *The Outcasts of Poker Flat* (1937) in which she played a school teacher who tries to reform gambler Preston Foster.

After a few years on Broad-

way (*Pride and Prejudice*) and radio, Muir returned to Hollywood for three further films. Her last part was in *The Constant Nymph* (1943) as Kate Sanger. Joan Fontaine's cello-playing oldest sister, the cello coming in handy for hiding her advanced pregnancy. Despite having once declared that she would never marry — "I'm too selfish to be loved by any man and I'm too interested in my career to let my emotions become a stumbling block" — she gave up acting for a number of years to become Mrs Henry Jaffe, and bring up her three children.

In 1950, Muir was offered the role of the lovable mother of the sitcom *The Adrift Family*, transferred from radio to TV. However, as rehearsals were about to start, her name appeared in the anonymously-published Red Channels newsletter, which "exposed" her as a communist sympathiser. The producers fired her from the show though they did not necessarily believe "the correct or incorrect facts", but Muir had become "controversial" and therefore "a sponsor risk".

Blacklisted by the entertainment industry, she volun-

Letters

Dr Robert Davis writes: James Tye (*obituary*, July 27) was indeed a skilled publicist and opportunist. However, his approach to safety on the road was by no means as benign as your obituarist suggests. Very much a "gardez-vous" approach, it could be victim-blaming for the most vulnerable.

In the case of seat-belt legislation (although he was a lot less responsible for this than he and your obituarist claimed), evidence of the negative effects of this legislation on driver behaviour was ignored, to the detriment of those suffering the majority of fatalities outside cars. Much of the "I'm all right Jack" attitude to driving, which bedevils the most vulnerable and most benign — types of travel such as walking and cycling, can be attributed to a "road safety" approach of which James Tye was such a highly visible example.

Meanwhile the problem of reacting danger at sources remains.

Viren Sahai writes: I write to correct the erroneous version of events given in your obituary of Dame Jane Drew (*obit*). It was not Le Corbusier who invited Jane Drew and Maxwell Fry to collaborate on the design of Chandigarh; on the contrary, it was the initiative of Jane Drew, supported by Fry, which was instrumental in getting Le Corbusier to become involved with the planning of the new capital for Punjab.

Her intellectual honesty was accompanied by immense humanity: her constructive opposition to apartheid resulted in the creation of a racially integrated system of architectural education in South Africa.

She inspired a number of students and young men in many countries; I was privileged to have been one of them.

Birthdays

Chris Bonington, mountaineer, 62; Billy Boston, rugby league player, 62; Steve Cairn, composer, 72; Charles Critchton, film director, 85; Ron Davies, Labour MP, 81; Jack Emmott, editor, the Economist, 40; Norman Graun, impresario, 78; Sir Howard Hodgkin, painter, 64; Sir Freddie Laker, air charter pioneer, 74; James Lees-Milne, architectural historian, 82; Moira Lester, actress, 70; Robert Milder, actor, 70; Jack Parnall, drummer, bandleader, 83; Judge Valerie Pearlman, 67; John Reid, jockey, 41; Dr Winifred Watkins, immunological chemist, 72; Barbara Windsor, actress, 59; Charles Wood, playwright, 64.

Death Notices

FANGETT, Miss Maudie Fawcett, died suddenly in London on August 2nd. Funeral to be announced shortly.

GIBSON, John, aged 80 years, Husband of Joan and father of Richard and Hilary. Services and committal at Macintoshes Crematorium on Friday, August 9, 1996, at 3.00pm. Enquiries to Hockley Wason and Buckley, Tel: 01753 62720.

HAMPSON, on July 30th 1996 peacefully in hospital after a short illness. Philip, aged 83 years of Worcester, loved wife and the late Norman Hampson, sister of Hilias and a daughter of William, lived with the late Mrs Norman Hampson, died August 2nd 1996 at home on Friday 26th August at 12.15 pm for services at St Mark's Church, Worcester on 30th August at 11.00 am. Family flowers only by request please to the British Heart Foundation, Worcester, Co-operative Funeral Services, Farnworth and Walsden Tel: 01724 672320.

Misses Maudie Gibson, daughter of Tom and Betty Gibson, died August 2nd 1996 at 11.30 in Worcester. Greatly loved and admired by her friends and remaining cousins here and abroad.

ROBERTS, Dennis (Bob), died Faversham 31.08.1996 (Funeral 11am Victoria Park, Maidstone) In Memoriam to G.P.O. and N.L.I. Enquiries to Co-op Funeral Services, Maidstone, Tel: 01753 62400.

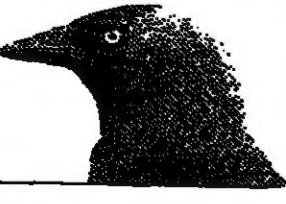
In Memoriam

HUGHES/MAGNANUS, in memory of the dead, August 2nd and 5th 1996.

Births

BARBERSON, Jacob Alexander David born 4 August 1996 to Mary and Johnny. To place your announcement telephone 0171 73 4667. Fax 0171 73 4125.

Jackdaw



History waves

AS TWO Americans of practically French extraction eager that a fledgling art form find its wings, we would like to see the team put this rebuttal behind it and get on with something that still rebounds to the glory of French culture without necessarily giving audience the willies. Here are a couple of ideas we've been throwing about:

1. "Pasterale": Life of the Great Druggist. The team making full use of the "freestyle" re-enacts Louis Pasteur's experiments with bacteria leading to the germ theory of infection. His work on phylloxera is mimicked by deft strokes, as

are his studies of chicken cholera. In an uplifting climax, swimmers are successfully "vaccinated" against anthrax and rabies to the sound of the "1812 Overture". Four minutes, 20 seconds.

2. "Esther Williams at the Lapin Agile": A celebration of French painting. Liberty leads the team, wearing Phrygian bathing caps and weight belts, the nauts attached to the bottom of the pool, where they languidly consume a "Dejeuner sur l'Herbe". Then, shooting to the surface and gasping in terror, they convey the sensational reception of the Army Show. Three and a half minutes; four to allow the costume change for the optional "explosion in a single factory" finale.

3. "Domination and Subversion": A post-humanist underwater ballet. Drawing on themes from Michel Foucault, the team symbolises its withdrawal of allegiance from the out-moded socio-historical construct of power and authoritarianism implicit in the state of buoyancy by performing "The Death of Man" in an empty pool. Sixty seconds.

4. "J'Accuzi": The Dreyfus Affair. Finesses the painful opera libretto. In severe terry cloth robes, the team marches on to the diving board in French military style. One by one, they cannonball off, miming the discovery by a French spy in the German Embassy of a secret list of French documents received by Major Max von Schwartzkoppen, military attaché in Paris. Next, suspicion falls on Dreyfus, followed by the acquittal of Esterhazy. Zola's pen letter to the president of the Republic, Dreyfus's trip to Devil's Island, and the eventual unification and bringing to power of France's political left wing. In the shallow end, Dreyfus is incarcerated and given the gold medal of the Legion of Honor. Just under four minutes.

Olympic notes on how to cause bigger ripples in the New York Review. Judith Sanders

fat. Give it pet names. Doodle fat on your notepad during meetings: fat, fat, fat, fat, fat. Use it with your parents, with your partner. Let friends in on your secret. Say, "By the way, I'm fat." Not plump, not bloated. FAT! Combine the word fat with other words in new and unusual ways: beautifully fat, fat and fabulous, fat pride. Use fat in a sentence: "You're looking good, are you getting fat?" "I met a handsome, fat man the other day." "Gee, I wish I could be fat like her." Try out these radical phrases on people you meet and watch their stunned reactions. Boat the bikini bulge blues at [www.fatso.com/man's.html](http://www.fatso.com/man's.html). Thanks to David Ingoldstey.

Hot sock

MY WIFE gave me a pair of red ski socks in the 1989-90 Whitehead Race, and whenever I wore them, even if we were behind in the fleet, suddenly we would be back in the front again. Sometimes we were quite a long way behind the fleet, maybe between Uruguay and Freemantle, and the crew would shout: "Come on, you've got to put your socks on!" "No, no, we'll wait until it really matters." "I would say. Then I would put them on and the next day, maybe in a flat calm, we would have a breeze that no one else had."

In this latest America's Cup, I wore the red socks. The

crew went to look askance at me as no one wore socks at all. When our bid ran out of money, one of our sponsors devised a campaign for the public to support us by buying red socks. In one week, it made us half a million dollars, which we put back into the sails and other bits and pieces to keep ourselves going. You wouldn't believe the sight after winning the America's Cup. A group of farmers put their sheep into red socks, there were horses with red socks on, dogs and little old ladies in wheelchairs. When the curtain went up on the east of 42nd Street, there were all these red socks dangling on stage. Then there was the prime minister and the elephant in the zoo... the place went crazy. People still wear them on the lapsels, and someone's applied to the Guinness Book of Records to claim that they have made the biggest red sock ever."

New Zealander, Sir Peter Blake (who could claim to be the greatest yachtsman the world has ever seen) tells Country Life the secret of his success.

Morehair

"IT'S A spoof" many will cry when they read Knitting with Dog Hair. It can't be taken straight. But why not? "The definitive guide to a new and ecologically friendly hobby", it is published by a respectable firm (Hutchinson at £6.99). Step-by-step instructions take you all the way from collecting the dog or cat hairs to wearing the jerseys, caps, mittens, socks, scarves

and even blankets they turn into, and photographs of the finished products snuggling and amaze. Far from being a solitary pastime for elderly spinsters (though spinsters in its original sense is exactly what the hobbyists are), it is put forward as an up-to-the-minute occupation for the whole family, the ultimate in recycling. "Better a sweater from a dog you know and love than a sheep you'll never meet" we are told. Does the finished product smell doggy or felin? Certainly not, the authors assure us. Wool has no smell of sheep after all, it's only the dirt washing at the start ensures a fragrant result.

A new method of continuing to knit your favourite pets presents, after they have gone to the grand kennel in the sky. Reported in the Tablet.

Jackdaw wants Jewels. E-mail [jackdaw@guardian.co.uk](mailto:jackdaw@guardian.co.uk); fax 0171 71 4368; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield





Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

HSBC stuns the markets with the highest six-monthly figures in the history of corporate Britain

## Midland hits record profit

Patrick Donovan  
City Editor

**H**SBBC, the global financial outfit whose activities range from the Midland Bank to the James Capel stockbroking firm, yesterday entered the record books as it unveiled the highest six-monthly profit figures in the history of corporate Britain.

Unusually for a major FTSE company unveiling scheduled profits, shares rocketed on the profit announcement, closing 48p to 1164p. Shares were also boosted by a 62 per cent increase in the dividend to 15p — the first step in rebalancing how the interim and final payments are made.

Analysts were taken by surprise at the unexpected growth in HSBC's large Hong Kong based operations which have seen sharp growth in bank transactions and improved margins despite the uncertainties created by next year's takeover of the colony by mainland China.

Overall profits from Hong Kong activities increased by a quarter to £218 million over the half year period. Its core Midland Bank operations increased 35 per cent to £338 million with particularly strong growth from First Direct. Nearly 90,000 customers have joined the telephone banking service over the past six months, largely prosperous account holders disaffected with other banks.

Although First Direct accounts for just 1.2 per cent of the entire market, the business now accounts for 5 per cent of lucrative ABCI customers. Underlining the growing trend for upmarket customers to shop around for better deals, First Direct has been ensuring high quality customers by rejecting four out of ten applications. HSBC declined to detail First Direct's performance.

HSBC said it had no plans for further branch closures and only expected this year to shed around 200 jobs above previously announced redundancy programmes.

### Notebook

## Warning: cherry pickers keep out



Edited by Mark Milner

**A**s privatisations go, it is hardly likely to be the most contentious. The Treasury, through merchant bankers IM Rothschild, is seeking expressions of interest from financial institutions in buying parts of the £1.1 billion Housing Corporation loan book. Nonetheless, the issue is worth close inspection.

regulation" under one roof. In the field of financial supervision, the tide has been running strongly in favour of merged, all-purpose mega-units for so long now that it behoves the neutral observer to beware the herd instinct.

The rationale behind such a wedding has been well rehearsed. Today's securities operations are, more likely than not, owned by a large commercial bank and, more important, use that bank's balance sheet as the launch platform for their own deal ecosystem.

Septicly will rightly be wary of another expensive bureaucratic upheaval — especially if the net result is one new institutional letterhead but with the same two separate teams working as before.

### Ken's semaphore

**T**HE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, likes to polish his image as a man whose first priority is a steady economy, not the political fortunes of his party.

Industrial output fell last month, and officials see little immediate prospect of a climb out of stagnation for manufacturing and the overall production industries.

Housing construction was weak, despite evidence of recovery in house prices. The money supply figures, whose recent strength has alerted some experts to inflationary pressures, showed that the amount of notes and coins in circulation grew more slowly than the City was anticipating last month.

That might, however, be a risk too far for a Chancellor who reckons to put economics before politics, a further cut in rates would do little to help the beleaguered sectors of the economy, but it could send the wrong signals to the financial markets.

## Newsquest pips Irish to buy Pearson papers

Lisa Buckingham

**P**EARSON, the company whose leisure empire ranges from the Financial Times to Alton Towers, yesterday sold its regional newspaper business, Westminster Press, for £235 million.

Newsquest intends to merge the 80 titles owned by Westminster Press with the 120 local newspapers it bought a few months ago from Reed.

The deal, which includes titles such as the Northern Echo, Oxford Mail and the Brighton Evening Argus, will make its buyer Newsquest — the management team which recently paid a similar sum for Reed International's local newspaper business — one of the two largest regional newspaper-owners in Britain.

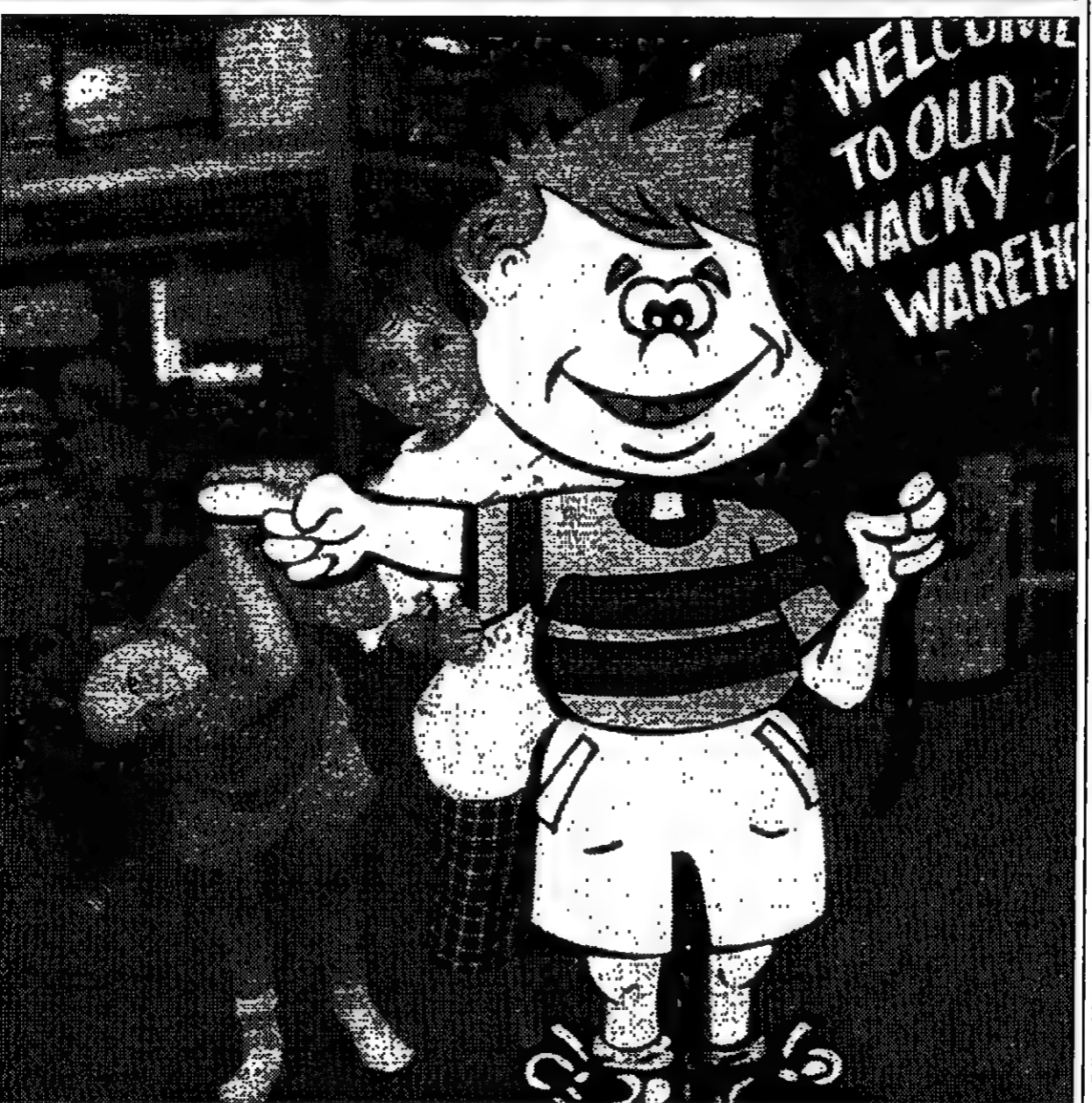
Writing in the bank's annual report, he ruled out merging with a larger bank. Earnings had been driven by a 55 per cent gain in corporate finance profit, which included work on takeovers such as Hanson's purchase of Eastern Electricity and South Wales Electricity's purchase of Welsh Water.

He said that banking and treasury had enjoyed a good year, although the company had difficulty in the gold and base metals markets at the end of the year.

The payout bonanza comes at a time when Rothschild has been losing a string of key staff.

It is understood that a last-minute bid of £12 million more was lodged at the weekend by Mr O'Reilly and MGN, but Pearson decided in favour of a broadly more beneficial package.

Chairman Lord Blakenham said there were no immediate plans for the group to follow fashion and spin off its television interests — which include Thames, Channel 5, stakes and Grundy — but he did not rule out this option longer term.



Points but no pints... Wesley meets pub pals in the Wacky Warehouse

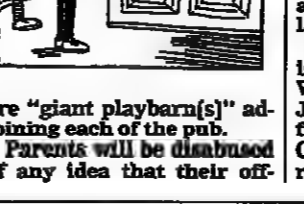
## Allied pubs serve a new sort of tot

**O**NCE they skulked in the back seat of the car, scoffing crisps and warm Coca-Cola while their parents gazed Taverne Keg and played bar billiards.

Then came pub gardens, followed by "children's rooms" and, eventually, "family pubs", complete with play areas and bouncy castles.

Now the kid-in-the-pub has taken his/her place at the bar, as a valued customer deserving his/her own supermarket-style loyalty card.

Adult regulars of the soon-to-be 110-strong Big Steak Pub chain may be happy to learn that the Wacky Gang card cannot actually be used in any of the pubs. They may be less happy to learn that the cards are for use in the Wacky Warehouses, which



are "giant playbarn(s)" adjoining each of the pub. Parents will be disabused of any idea that their offspring can be dumped in the Wacky Warehouse while they repair to the neighbouring boozery — Allied requires parents to supervise their children — and consume their drinks from paper cups, for "safety" reasons.

## Shares deal boosts O'Reilly's pay to £41m

Mark Tran in New York and Lisa Buckingham

**T**ONY O'Reilly, chairman of HJ Heinz, saw his total pay rise to \$64.1 million (£41.3 million) last year from \$3 million in 1994, thanks to a \$61.5 million gain on the exercise of stock options.

His Irish Independent group has expanded significantly in recent years, through stakes in South African newspaper groups in addition to the London Independent.

## SFA chief expects sole watchdog

**A**N ALL-POWERFUL regulator for the banking and securities industry, absorbing the current role of the Bank of England, is likely to be established whatever the result of the general election, the stock-market supervisor the Securities and Futures Authority said yesterday.

Chairman Nicholas Durlacher suggested that the City's chief "referee", the Securities and Investments Board, would probably be merged with its subsidiaries, including the SFA.

Meaningful economies of scale, he said, banking supervision would be detached from the Bank of England and effectively married to the SFA.

Whoever wins the election, he said, was unlikely to leave the 10-year-old regulatory system as it was.

### Vox pop victory

**M**ERGER and demerger are fashions not only in commercial life but in the public sector, as well as the debate ebbs and flows between those who wanted "focused", single-purpose agencies and those who believed in the virtues of "int-

## Paying Names appeal to judge

**D**ISGRUNTLED investing Names at Lloyd's of London yesterday succeeded in initiating a legal challenge to the market's £3.2 billion rescue package.

The 3,000-strong Paying Names Action Group was given permission by High Court judge Mr Justice Turner to go ahead with a judicial review of the Lloyd's rescue plan. The hearing is due to start next week.

John Abramson, of solicitors Warner Cranston, acting for the rebel Names, said a victory for the rebel Names could force Lloyd's to reconsider its package.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.937	France 7.47	Italy 2.294	Singapore 2.1375
Austria 15.61	Germany 2.205	Malta 0.538	South Africa 8.73
Belgium 45.26	Greece 365.75	Netherlands 2.4775	Spain 187.75
Canada 2.072	Hong Kong 11.85	New Zealand 2.270	Sweden 10.03
Cyprus 0.885	India 54.67	Norway 9.56	Switzerland 1.775
Denmark 8.565	Ireland 0.932	Portugal 228.25	Turkey 123.960
Finland 6.85	Israel 4.85	Saudi Arabia 5.76	USA 1.51

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqal)



# 'Industrial stagnation' cues rate cut

Sarah Riley

**H**OPES that the manufacturing sector was on the road to recovery were shattered yesterday when official figures showed a surprise fall in factory output.

Recent surveys of executives had suggested the manufacturing sector could be on course for a speedy revival. But the Office for National Statistics yesterday disclosed that industrial output fell 1.1 per cent in June, with manufacturing output down 0.3 per cent.

Factory output has failed to grow for three successive quarters. This was seized upon by analysts who have been predicting that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, will make another cut in interest rates before the Budget.

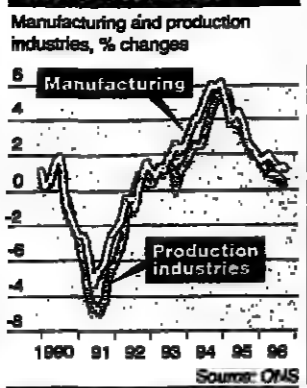
They said evidence of persistent sluggishness in the industrial sector would strengthen Mr Clarke's hand in the anticipated tussle with the Bank of England over any further reduction in base

rates from the current level of 5.75 per cent.

UBS economist Andrew Cates said: "Until firms dig themselves out from beneath their burden of stocks and become more confident about the durability of this upturn in demand, activity will probably continue to stagnate. On this basis, there is still a good chance that we will see another base-rate cut in the months ahead."

Industrial output failed to grow in the three months to

### Rise and fall



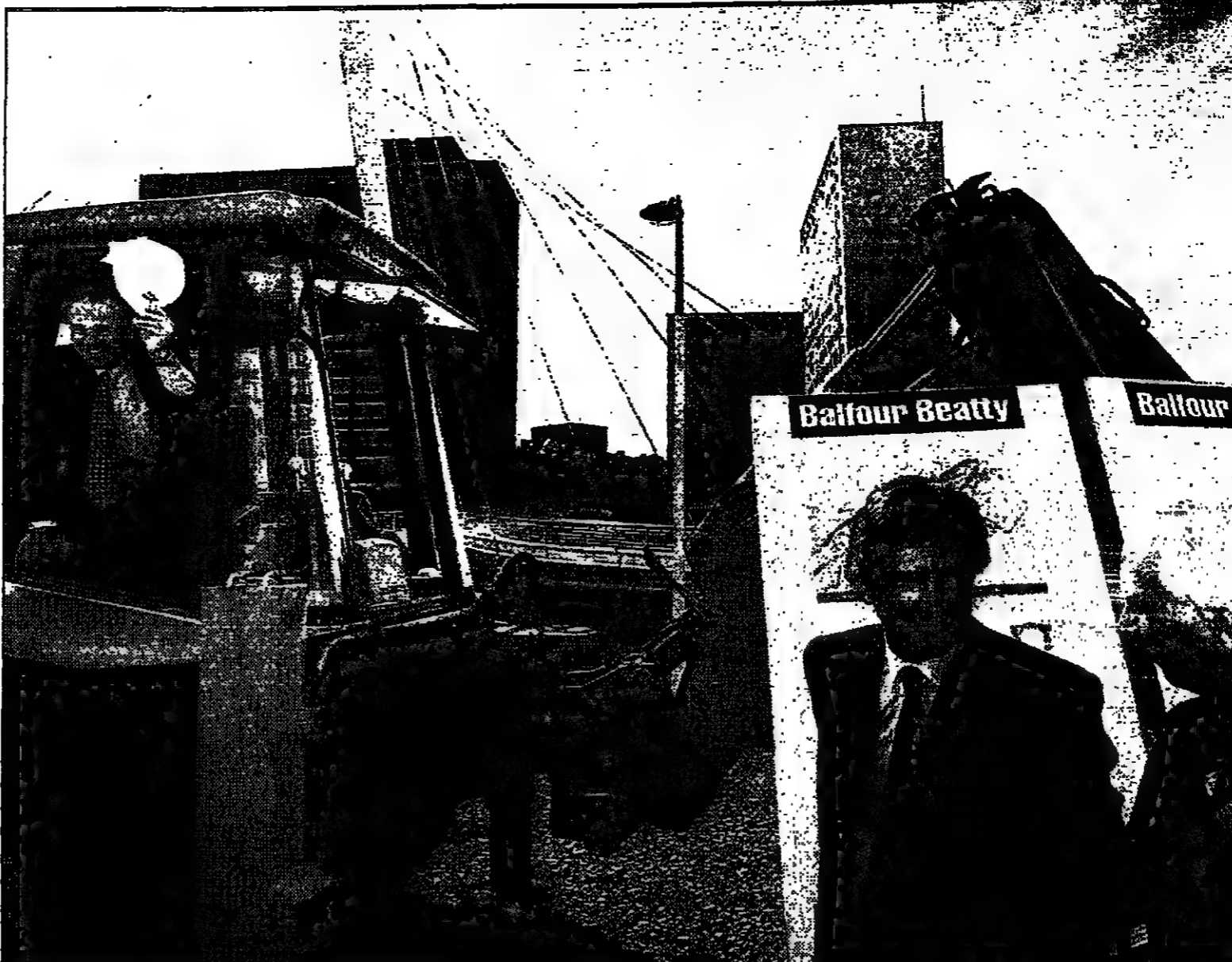
June compared with the same period a year ago, said the ONS. It was the first year-on-year stagnation since the recession.

The monthly drop was the worst since November 1992, and officials predicted that output would remain flat in both total industrial production and manufacturing industries, which the Chancellor is understood to see as key measures of the overall health of the economy.

Separate evidence that the door is still ajar for a further cut in interest rates was provided by figures for houses built in the first six months of this year.

Housing starts in June were 22 per cent lower than they were at the same time last year, with new buildings for the first six months in the year 11 per cent lower than in 1995.

Shadow housing and construction minister Nick Raynsford said: "For all the brave talk about recovery, these hard figures show that the housing market is still desperately fragile and orders for new housing are declining."



# Sharp rise in BA profits fails to excite City

OUTLOOK/ Doubts over American deal hit carrier, writes Chris Barrie

**T**HE prospect of an alliance between British Airways and American Airlines continued to dominate investor perception of the UK carrier yesterday when a sharp rise in first-quarter profits failed to excite the City as much as expected.

In normal circumstances investors could be expected to respond favourably to an 11.1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits which, in BA's case, took the surplus to \$135 million on turnover of \$2.1 billion. But BA's shares ended 8.5p down at 83.5p. In the straggle politics of the world's flag-carriers, agreements between dip-

lo-mats count as much as productivity per employee.

And in BA's case, facing litigation from its own partner, USAir, over its proposal to form an even closer alliance with US rival American, the prospects are as dim as a forecast as the outcome of any case in the US courts.

Analysts were stressing yesterday that BA's long-term future depended on the alliance with American. Without it, the group would struggle to develop as a global carrier.

Although the deal would enhance profits by allowing the two to pool their purchasing, cut costs and increase passenger revenue, the alliance is

also a defence against similar moves by United Airlines with Germany's Lufthansa.

Chris Avery, an analyst with Banque Paribas, said the only issue now was the identity of BA's US partner, USAir or American. And given USAir's litigation against BA, the indications were that BA's first suitor was looking to unravel its transatlantic link.

There was also speculation that USAir was putting down a marker for the talks on an "open skies" agreement, which could see US carriers being given greater access to Heathrow. London is host to the next round of talks in September.

BA is playing down the rift. Holder of a 94.6 per cent stake in USAir, the company said it was possible for lawyers to ar-

gue while inter-company co-operation continued. But the group also stressed that it would fight USAir's moves to force it to divest its stake and remove BA directors from its board.

Apart from political battles, there are financial risks in these overseas alliances. The first-quarter contribution from BA partners - USAir, Qantas, Deutsche BA and TAT, plus franchise operators - doubled to \$50 million, but that contribution was described by Mr Avery as "disappointing".

Analysts also focused on an 11.8 per cent increase in costs. BA said the rise was due to a 31 per cent increase in fuel costs, following a severe winter which caused a shortage of aviation fuel. Adverse dollar-sterling movements in-

creased costs further, while employee costs rose 11.8 per cent due to a 3.6 per cent pay rise and a growing workforce.

Sir Colin Marshall, BA chairman, was, however, optimistic. Describing the outlook for the industry and BA as "encouraging", he forecast a record year for the sector.

The airline carried 8.35 million passengers, slightly up on last year. But as passengers fly further so revenue per passenger kilometre is rising, in this case by 3.7 per cent. The airline increased its capacity by 5.9 per cent, spelling a fall of 1.8 per cent to 71.9 per cent in the passenger-load factor - the percentage of seats sold. Margins are benefiting, though, from stronger demand for first and Club class services.

BA's performance looks

# Taxmen rely on £60m PFI plan

Martyr Railton

**T**HE Government's beleaguered private finance initiative received a much needed boost yesterday when the Inland Revenue unveiled a £60 million office development scheme.

Treasury minister Michael Jack, pictured above centre at the site, announced that the taxman's first PFI venture will be built in Salford, Greater Manchester. The futuristic development, due to open in March 1998, will bring together 11 existing offices and 2,200 staff in one of the Inland Revenue's largest office reorganisations.

The project will also include the redevelopment of a former hospital in Stockport where new offices will be developed behind a listed early Victorian facade, drawing together about 350 staff from three offices. Some 180 jobs will be lost by "natural wastage" in the reorganisation.

The new Salford offices, which will handle the tax affairs of 3 million PAYE taxpayers in London and the South-east, will mark "a pioneering use of private finance," Mr Jack said.

He said that the introduction of PFI marked an end to the days of "build and disappear" by private builders in public sector office development. He said: "Now all the risks are the responsibility of the developer and that's putting the risk where it can be handled best, in the private sector."

The Manchester area project is part of a 10-year programme of restructuring tax offices, which will reduce the numbers overall from about 300 to 186. Around 70 office schemes have been completed.

Target date for reorganising half the network is April 1998. The reorganisation coincides with the introduction in 1998/7 of self assessment for 9 million tax-payers.

# US airlines compete to see how far they can bring down fares

Mark Tran in New York

**F**ARE-cutting in the US airline industry reached new levels yesterday as American Airlines and United Airlines announced steep price reductions to match those of America West Airlines.

American made its move in response to America West's offer of single tickets on long-haul flights for as little as \$50. The latest discounts follow a round of fare-cutting as airlines seek to encourage late summer and autumn travel.

Airlines say bookings have not dropped as a result of the ValuJet and TWA disasters. But they have an incentive to sell as many tickets as possible now.

Legislation reinstating a 10 per cent federal excise tax on airline tickets for Hays through Congress and could resurface later this month. Carriers have pocketed some of the wind-

fall in ticket prices since the tax lapsed in December. America West, the ninth-largest carrier in the US, is trying to establish itself as a national low-fare, full-service airline. Single fares of \$50 (\$33, \$100 or \$150, based primarily on length of trip, will be available on most routes, except from certain overcrowded airports such as New York's La Guardia and Washington's National Airport.

The most attractive fares will be offered on America West's least desirable flight times, such as the carrier's "Nite Flights" - late-night trips that operate through Las Vegas, near its Arizona base, and seats are limited.

Southwest Airlines sparked a ticket-buying frenzy last month by offering single fares of \$25. The airline sold more than 4.5 million seats apart from the 1.5 million it sold through its phone lines, hitting July sales because regular customers could not get through.

# Tunnel claims best month yet

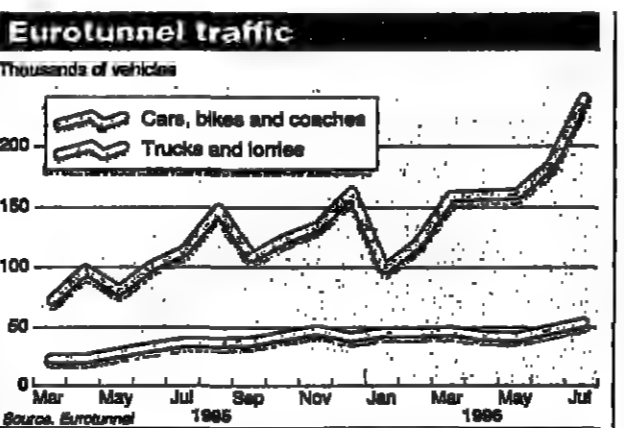
Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

**T**HE Channel tunnel recorded its best month yet in July, with more than 240,000 cars and some 54,000 trucks being transported under the English Channel, according to new figures.

The number of cars, motor cycles, caravans and coaches using the tunnel in July was more than double the same month last year and 31 per cent up on this June, in what the operator, Eurotunnel, described as a successful start to the summer.

Its figures show the tunnel increasingly winning support and custom after suffering huge teething troubles at the beginning of operations in December 1994.

Last weekend alone saw 31,000 cars and coaches pour through the tunnel - more than a fifth of the traffic through the tunnel in the whole of last August.



For July as a whole, 240,129 cars, motorbikes, caravans and coaches used Shuttle services, compared with just over 114,000 last July.

The number of passengers using high-speed Eurostar trains went over the mark for the first time in July - a 72 per cent increase on the total for last July. Just over 2.7 million passen-

gers have travelled on Eurostar trains so far this year. Shuttle freight services handled 54,978 journeys by trucks and lorries an increase of 45 per cent on the previous July. Tonnes of freight increased by 35 per cent to 214,141.

Eurotunnel said the land route to the Continent was now carving out a growing share of the market, with its share of the car market up to 44 per cent and in freight increased to 45 per cent.

The encouraging figures for Eurotunnel come after an increasingly intense commercial battle with the ferry operators and the short-haul airlines. In May, the group announced it was halving its main return fare to £129. Ferry operators immediately hit back, promising to match any deal offered by Eurotunnel and have since received government clearance to pool resources on cross-Channel routes.

Airlines have seen their traffic hit by the Eurostar service, with the Paris route most severely hit. A spokeswoman for Eurotunnel said that the service had grown in popularity with the introduction of a more frequent and reliable service.

The introduction of special offers - including deals on duty-free goods for travellers using Shuttle services - had helped boost trade.

# Suitors press claims for Kleinwort trust

News in brief

**F**IVE suitors for the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust have made approaches, with two or three more expected to emerge, according to market sources.

The interested parties for the trust, known as Keptit, include most of the big names in the personal equity plan market, including Morgan Grenfell, Schroders and American Commerce, Fidelity.

The battle for the £300 million trust - which has about 120,000 small shareholders - took an unexpected twist when Keptit's directors invited interested parties to come up with detailed proposals within the next fortnight.

The invitation has not been extended to Henderson Touche Remnant, whose TR European Growth Trust last week made a hostile bid for Keptit.

Kleinwort Benson Investment Management said it was still the manager to run the fund, since it had done so for two years. It would not be demanding a termination fee. Peter Ellis, deputy chairman, said: "We believe KEPTIT is best placed to deliver value to Keptit shareholders." - Ian King

# Salvesen ponders fresh Hays bid as family splits

Pressure builds on directors to accept deal for power group, reports Ian King

**D**IRECTORS of Christian Salvesen, the logistics and power hire group, will meet today to consider a raised offer from business services group Hays.

Hays, which had an offer rejected last week valuing Salvesen shares at 370p, is understood to have raised its cash-and-shares offer to around 380p at the weekend - valuing Salvesen at £1.4 billion.

Rumours, Frost, Hays's chairman, is thought to be unwilling to pay more than 400p a share, which would secure a knockout bid, but which would dilute earnings for Hays. He is still known to prefer a recommendation for any offer from Salvesen's directors, who have been holding out for a deal in the region of

400p, and who last week, in an unusual move, told him they would consider a higher offer.

He has also held lengthy talks with Hays's institutional shareholders - including Mercury Asset Management, Gartmore and Standard Life - on the price they would back.

But Mr Frost has also made clear that he is prepared to walk away from a deal if the price is not right - a move which would prompt a collapse in the Salvesen share price. City analysts expect that in such a situation, Salvesen would be forced into remedial action to satisfy angry shareholders, perhaps involving a share buy-back or even a full demerger of the company.

Last night Salvesen shares closed down 8p at 351p, while Hays shares climbed 5p to 432p.

Neither side would last night confirm or deny that Hays had raised its offer. Salvesen was meeting to consider the proposals. There was no comment on sugges-

tions that a proposed deal involving the sale of part of Salvesen's European logistics businesses, which would give Hays the added continental muscle it craves, is also being considered.

However, sources in the City indicated that meetings had reached an intense stage, and that an announcement was expected some time later this week.

Crucial to the outcome will be the voting intentions of the founding Salvesen family, whose 200 members collectively control 38 per cent of the company, but which is divided on whether to side with Mr Frost. It is thought that some of the younger members of the family are in favour of a takeover.

Rumours circulating yesterday in the Edinburgh broking community, which has traditionally been closer to both the company and the Salvesen family, suggested that family members are putting pressure on Chris Masters, Salvesen's chief executive, to secure a deal with Mr Frost.



# A Pocket-size problem for Bluebird Toys

**I**NTENSE competition and too many Polly Pockets held in shops have left half-time pre-tax profits of Bluebird Toys down 59 per cent at £2.1 million, writes Pauline Springett.

"The harsh world market conditions are having an adverse effect on the current year's performance," said chairman Martin Bunting. He warned that turnover would be slightly lower in the second half of the year.

But the company, which was last year the subject of takeover speculation, said it was already hitting back at its competitors, with its recently launched Disney and Batman miniature toys selling well. These will be joined later this year by Spider Man and Space Monkey toys.

Analysts have predicted an eventual tussle between the US toy groups Hasbro and Mattel for Bluebird, although the takeover speculation has recently become more muted.

Pictured: Batman meets The Joker on screen.

British

Nash House comeback

0930 1684

BRITANNIA TRAVEL

سكيا من الالجر



OLYMPIC GAMES

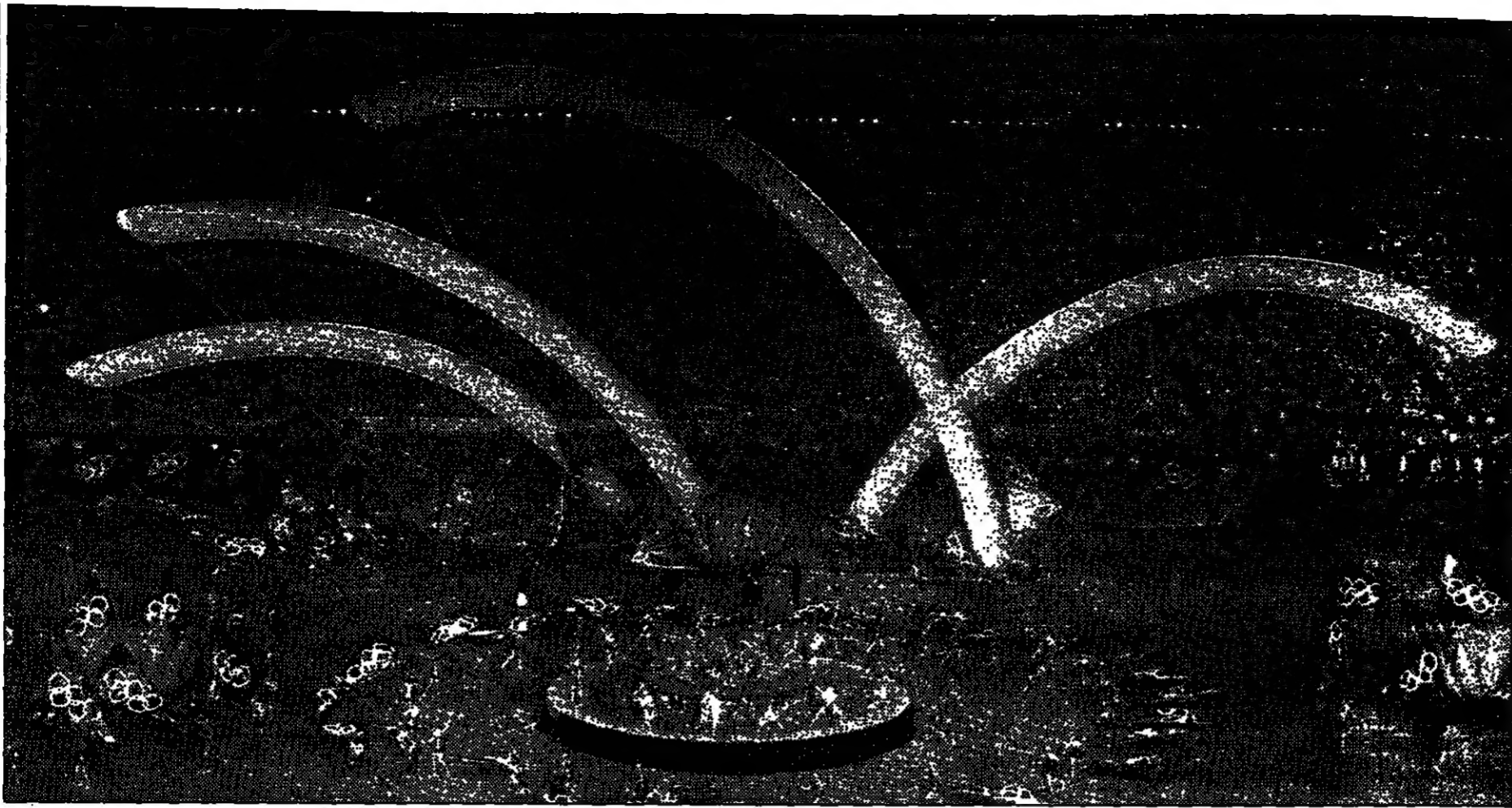
Britain and the fading gold standard

Nick Mason

FOR Great Britain the final medals table represents a decline of self-flagellating proportions...

For the Russians and the Germans the medal totals have been reduced to relatively modest proportions...

But it is gold that matters, and British teams have had to settle for the single solitary 'big yellow one' only twice before in the modern Games' 100-year history...



Song cycle... a representation of Sydney Opera House dominates the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games and whets the appetite for Australia in 2000

Final Medals Table

Table with columns: Rank, Country, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Total. Lists countries like USA, Russia, Germany, France, Italy, etc.

Dixie darlings and southern discomfort: Guardian writers on Atlanta's highs and lows

The Star Rachel Mahamane of Nigeria, aged 14, who finished four minutes behind Sonia O'Sullivan in her 5,000m heat.

The Star Roger Black, an outstanding 400m in the circumstances. Overshadowed by Johnson but memorable none the less.

The Star Muhammad Ali: forever The Greatest. The security guard Richard Jewell, according to a lynch-mob American media which had no conception of innocent until proven guilty.

The Star Michael Johnson for taking gold to obscure Roger Black's finest hour.

The Star Sonia O'Sullivan, who may be disappointed by the Irish population if she wins in Zurich next week.

Just about anything the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games uttered in the first week.

Racing

Nash House on comeback trail

NASH HOUSE, one of the season's biggest talking horses and an 8-1 chance for the Derby before flopping in the Dante Stakes, is due to reappear after a three-month lay off in Haydock's Rose of Lancaster Stakes on Saturday.

Carrying 4lb overweight, he went down by a length to Fredrik the Fierce in a hot nursery at Goodwood last week and today's event looks less demanding.

Catterick card with guide to the form

Racing card for Catterick with various race listings, horse names, and odds.

Brighton

Racing card for Brighton with various race listings, horse names, and odds.

Results

Table of race results from various tracks including Ripon, Newton Abbot, and Catterick.

RACELINE section with horse names and odds for various races.

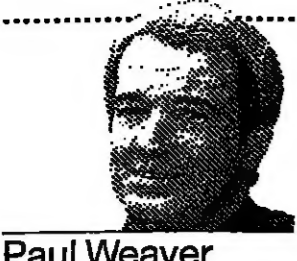
Additional racing information and results.

Additional racing information and results.

Additional racing information and results.



The game of golf as you should not like it, or why a round at the Forest of Arden adds up to 1984



Paul Weaver

LAME Peter Lilley's snitchers' bill. I do. The social security secretary's "snooper's charter" to counter benefit cheats has been out only five minutes and we are already a

nation of gaff-blowers, spies, buddies and informers. The golf club, the last bastion of gentlemanly behaviour, the final tattered remnant of play-up-play-up-and-play-the-game Britain, has made room for the spy lens, the closed-circuit camera, to pick out the green cheat. It is the thin end of the sand wedge. Big Brother has obviously had his day at the office. What with warring dictators on the one hand and the Thought Police on the other, and all that fact distortion and history rewriting in the in-try, he has finally opted for a spot of R and R. Or even R and

A. He has taken his spoon and made a milk and rack. Nicklaus V-neck off to the fairway. The news that the Forest of Arden Country Club and Chesport's St Pierre course had positioned cameras at their earliest holes to nab fraudsters is distressing. Cameras are everywhere now. There is probably one in my PC, hidden and glowering, informing my editor that I am not crouching in martyrdom in my garret but enjoying a swift shandy in the Jolly Firkin. There is already one installed in cricket stumps in big matches and there is now some talk of sticking one in the umpire's hat, or perhaps

Peter Willey's beard, or even the back of his head so that it can address a fast bowler with a baleful stare as he abuses it. There is probably one in Mike Atherton's trouser pocket at this very moment, scouring that dark interior for any sign of Headingley soil. We can do nothing about that but there are disturbing issues raised by the camera's intrusion on to the golf course to which we should not be resigned. This is about a game's sacred image and a player's honesty and chivalry, for essentially that is what this sport is all about. Now when it comes to golf I belong to the good-walk-

spoiled contingent. This is not because of any particular dislike of the game but just that, when the shots do nothing more than provide catching practice for short extra cover, I start to look elsewhere for sporting glory. Golf, however, has always represented something special. It is largely self-administered and meant to be beyond suspicion. A man's word is his bond is his handicap is his score. Now, at the Forest of Arden, four surveillance cameras have been installed at certain holes, two at the tee and two next to the green. A control box hums eerily in the rough

and there is a swipe-card system next to the tee with which players can register their place on the film. There is another motive for all this: money. The organisers claim the cameras will not only catch out those people who falsely claim a hole in one but also record the genuine ones, allowing that player to relive the tee shot of his life. We are offering people the chance to record something that may never happen to them again and the reaction here has been very positive," says Sean Clark, director of golf at the Forest of Arden. It has not gone down well with everyone, however. The

Ryder Cup player Sam Torrance has described it as "an insult to professional golfers" and Michael Bonalack, secretary of the Royal and Ancient at St Andrews, the headquarters of golf, has said he is appalled and could think of nothing worse. John Bennett, chairman of the English Golf Union's championship committee, says: "I don't think the risk of cheating, which is minimal, justifies this unwelcome intrusion. An inquiry is sufficient and I would monitor any player who had been questioned." The union's secretary Paul Baxter says it has no place on

the English course and describes it as an expensive marketing gimmick in the United States, however, the suppliers Tee One Up claim that similar courses have caught a number of cheats, although not President Nixon when he threw a ball out of a thicket. And the former Open champion Nick Price says he knows of two tour players who cheat. For me golf will never be the same. As for Orwell, he wrote a much better book than 1984. Animal Farm, in which he famously said: "Everyone is level par, but some people are more level par than others." Or something like that.

Soccer

Lombardo deal off

Ian Ross

A TILIO Lombardo's conviction that he is worthy of a bigger pay packet than Alan Shearer's yesterday scuppered his proposed transfer between Juventus and Sheffield Wednesday.

The South Yorkshire club pulled out of the £2.7 million deal after Lombardo's representatives insisted their man should be the biggest earner among British football's fat cats. The day before he was due to join Wednesday the 30-year-old Italian international winger asked for £200,000 per season more than the £1.2 million that Shearer is reportedly receiving at Newcastle United. But his demands were received unsympathetically at Hillsborough. "We will not pay exaggerated wages," said the Wednesday manager David Pleat. "We shall now find an alternative to Lombardo."

the club paid for Andy Sinton and for Des Walker. Middlesbrough hope that their Italian signing Fabrizio Ravarilli will receive his international clearance in time to play against Juventus tonight. Nottingham Forest want to unload their Italian striker Andrea Silenzi but have yet to find a taker.

Liverpool's chances of retaining their new signing Patrick Berger in time to make a contribution to the opening two rounds of their European Cup Winners' Cup campaign receded yesterday.

Although the Czech international midfielder has completed his £3.2 million move from Borussia Dortmund, it could be another three weeks before he receives a work permit. And if Berger fails to meet Uefa's August 15 deadline he will be unable to appear in the competition until the quarter-finals. Neville Southall will decide within the next three days whether to sever his ties with Everton after 16 years. The veteran goalkeeper is to hold talks with Wolverhampton Wanderers about a free transfer that, it is believed, would net him around £1 million over two years. Blackburn Rovers yesterday allied fears that their £5 million striker Chris Sutton had broken his leg during a friendly against Colchester United at the weekend. Sutton was taken to hospital with an ankle injury. "It is not as serious as I first thought," said Rovers' assistant manager Tony Parkes. "It's just tissue damage."

Home is where Celtic's heart is

Patrick Glenn in Kosice

CELTIC, with their priorities elsewhere, are likely to dip rather than become fully immersed in European waters here in Slovakia this afternoon when they play the first leg of the Uefa Cup qualifying round against FC Kosice. This dilution of the Scots' commitment to what is normally a passionately espoused cause stems from the need to overcome Rangers' domination of the Scottish game. Earlier in the summer, when it seemed possible that Celtic could be involved in a preliminary-round tie in July, their manager Tommy Burns said that it would have less than his fullest attention. "We have priorities in the domestic game," he said on arrival in a rainy Kosice yesterday. "The thing is, when you're physically below peak, you suffer mentally too. But since the start of pre-season training I've been feeling very strong, very committed, very happy and completely without inhibitions. You have to be like that to perform properly at this level."

Even if there is an ambivalence about their ambitions, Celtic appear to have the basic talent to secure a result that would give them a favourite's chance in the second leg two weeks' time, thereby qualifying for the first round proper. He also revealed plans to move the club along with their tenants, the rugby union club Wasps — to a new 30,000-seat stadium.

Wright on at Loftus Road

CHRIS WRIGHT, the Olympic entrepreneur and lifelong Queens Park Rangers fan, finally completed his takeover of the club yesterday, writes Martin Thorpe. "I believe we have the basis of a team which should be able to fulfil our

initial objective of a swift return to the Premiership," he said, adding that money will be available for new players. He also revealed plans to move the club along with their tenants, the rugby union club Wasps — to a new 30,000-seat stadium.



No place like home... Llansantffraid warm up at the Recreation Park for their Cup Winners' Cup tie against Ruch Chorzow which has been switched to Wrexham

Welsh Saints out to work miracle

Graham Lloyd finds Llansantffraid, a village club in the Marches, hitting the European trail with a strong Breeze at their backs

FANTASY football fanatics would be hard-pressed to match it and the villagers of Llansantffraid can still hardly believe it but the unlikely of dreams is about to be realised. Six years ago this mid-Wales club, who were formed in 1959 and spent 30 years playing in the Montgomeryshire Amateur League, were struggling to raise a side. On Thursday they set out on the European trail in the Cup Winners' Cup hoping to achieve a possible first-round tie against Barcelona, Benfica or Liverpool.

Fewer than a thousand people live in the small farming community of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain — "St Bridget's Church in the land of the River Kain" — two miles inland the Welsh border near Oswestry. The local animal feed mill employs 50 of them and twice that number make up the club's regular home crowd at the Recreation Park, surrounded on three sides by fields.

Their clubhouse consists of two prefabricated classrooms imported from Shrewsbury, the players change in the nearby community centre and the pitch doubles as the local school playing field. As a result Thursday's preliminary-round tie against Ruch Chorzow from Poland will be staged 20 miles away at The Racecourse in Wrexham. The club's chairman Mike Hughes was a winger with the Saints in the early Sixties. "Things were rough at the beginning," he says. "We carried water to the changing rooms in milk-churns and washed in an old tin bath."

ing the Welsh Cup final. Barry Town, their opponents, had already won a place in the Uefa Cup as League of Wales champions and in a memorable match at Cardiff Arms Park, Saints first outplayed the favourites and then beat them 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out. Their top scorer and assistant manager Tomi Morgan, who runs a loans agency, joined Llansantffraid after being sacked as player-manager by Aberystwyth two years ago. "It's sometimes difficult to believe that there's a League of Wales side in the village, let alone a team playing in Europe," Morgan says. "Since the Welsh Cup final my life's been a little like a roller-coaster ride. Three days later I was offered a two-year contract to play football in South Korea. They'd seen the final on World Service television and mentioned a nice apartment and various things benefits before losing interest when I told them I was 38. I've also been in-

involved in making a television documentary about the village. Each Chorzow have won the Polish First Division 14 times, the last in 1988, and as well as lifting the Polish Cup last season, they returned to the top flight after a year in the Second Division. Their squad contains five internationals but their form has been patchy with two defeats in three league games. "Both sides are going into the unknown a little," says Morgan. "Let's just hope they give us some respect and we give them a good game."

Last-minute injury and illness have hampered Breeze's preparations. "Two players have had tonsillitis and we'll be without Ian Evans (in midfield) because of an ankle injury he picked up at work. "The best thing that's happened to us since the Welsh Cup win was being absolutely hammered 6-2 by Wrexham on Friday because it brought everyone down to earth. Realistically I'll be defeated with a draw or a 1-0 delight, anything that keeps us in with a shout in the second leg."

Results

Soccer

PREMIER LEAGUE: Liverpool 1, Tottenham 2; Arsenal 2, Manchester United 1; Chelsea 1, Tottenham 2; Manchester United 1, Tottenham 2; Arsenal 2, Manchester United 1; Chelsea 1, Tottenham 2.

Rugby League

WARRIORS: Wigan 1, Leeds 2; Bradford Bulls 1, Wakefield Trinity 2; Hull FC 1, Hull RU 2; Salford Red Devils 1, Wigan 2.

Baseball

NEW YORK: Yankees 5, Boston 3; St. Louis 4, Chicago 2; Cincinnati 6, Cleveland 3; Philadelphia 3, Pittsburgh 2; NY Yankees 5, Boston 3.

Cricket

TEST MATCH: Australia 248, South Africa 108; England 248, West Indies 108; Australia 248, South Africa 108.

Fixtures

SOCCER: Tottenham vs Arsenal; Liverpool vs Manchester United; Chelsea vs Tottenham.

Sport in brief

England's women gained a rare victory over Germany at Under-21 level, winning 3-0 in Leipzig with goals from Lucy Hurter, the centre Hennie Le Roux and the lock Steve Atherton.

Hockey

England's women gained a rare victory over Germany at Under-21 level, winning 3-0 in Leipzig with goals from Lucy Hurter, the centre Hennie Le Roux and the lock Steve Atherton.

Snooker

The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association hearing which could activate a 12-month ban on Alex Higgins was yesterday adjourned to September 5.

Drugs in sport

The Bulgarian triple jumper Iva Prandzeva and the Russian hurdler Natalya Shekdanova tested positive for steroids at the Olympics and face four-year bans.

Rugby Union

South Africa have been forced by injury to make three changes to the side that beat

Arrow



Kent ca

Maddy hold for first cen

Hulllocking 1st



Golf

David Davies, in Louisville for this week's US PGA Championship, on the designer's dismay over the forbidden island fairway

Arrow through Nicklaus' heart



Nicklaus... 'flabbergasted'

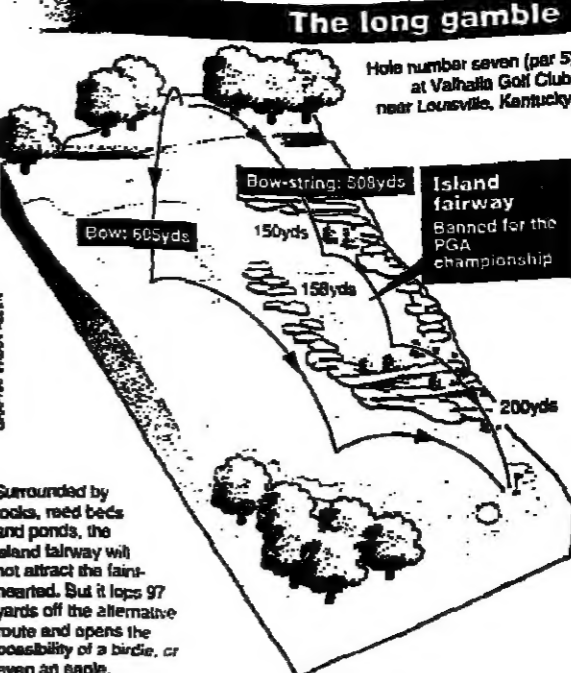
JACK NICKLAUS is, for once, flabbergasted. The man who has seen and experienced almost all of what golf has to offer cannot believe what the officials in charge of this week's US PGA Championship have done to the course at the Valhalla club here in Kentucky.

Valhalla is a Nicklaus design. When he was called in to create it the owner Dwight Gahan (pronounced "gama") specified that it should be more than just a members' course, for he had in mind attracting a championship to the area.

It is, in a sense, two holes. One measures a bow-shaped 605 yards; the other is the bow-string and cuts straight between the two ends, measuring only 300 yards. The bow hole is a three-shotter in anyone's terms. The bow-string hole can, with length and accuracy — and bravery — be covered comfortably enough in two shots, setting up a possible eagle or an almost certain birdie.

But to get the maximum benefit of the shorter hole, the player has to gamble, he has to hit a drive of some 280 yards or more, dead straight, on to an island fairway, or perhaps find the ball unplayable amid rocks and water. Then he has to hit a long second, again over rocks and water, to the green. It is a classic Nicklaus design, a risk-and-reward hole that en-

capsulates Nicklaus's beliefs on how the game should be played. But the PGA has, literally, declared those beliefs out of bounds. The bow-string hole will be staked off, declared unusable, during the this championship. The best players in the world will be denied a challenge that many of them would eagerly have accepted. Worse still, spectators and television will be denied the chance of watching them succeed or fail. Nicklaus says: "No one consulted me about it. I was just informed and I'm flabbergasted."



Surrounded by rocks, trees and water, the island fairway will not attract the fair-minded. But it tops 97 yards of the alternative route and opens the possibility of a birdie, or even an eagle.

But just because the speed of the convoy is that of the slowest ship, that hardly means that championships should be run for the benefit of the less skilled players competing in it. The US PGA Championship, which starts here on Thursday, will be a less exciting event because of this decision and it will be interesting if and when the Ryder Cup is played at Valhalla, whether the same safety-first and specious arguments apply.

Cricket

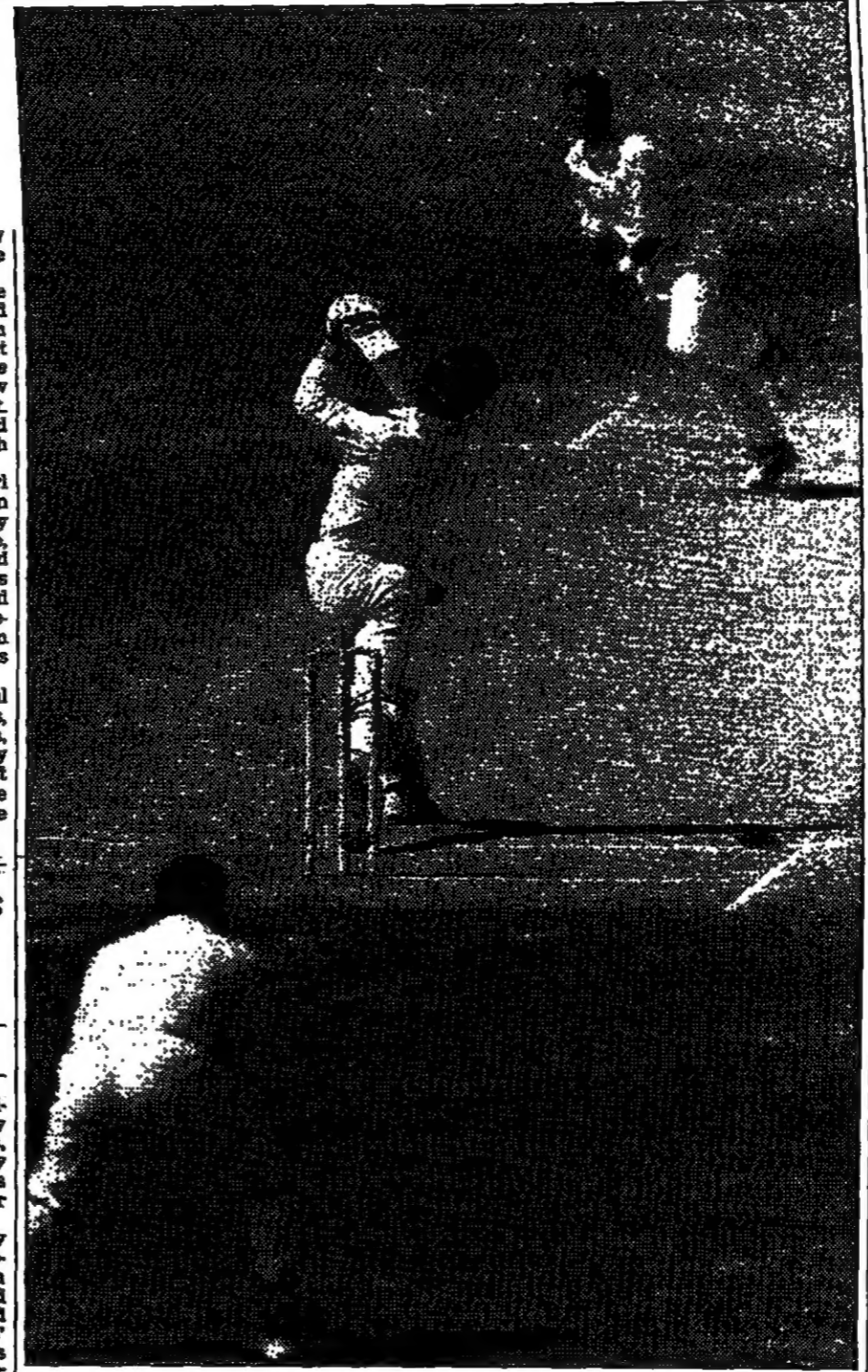
County Championship: Kent v Worcestershire

Kent caught out

Paul Weaver at Canterbury RATHER ordinary county championship is beginning to resemble a slow bicycle race. Yorkshire have lost two on the trot, Leicestershire have come to a sudden stop and Kent appear to be going backwards. Yesterday they caught the sticky end of a results pitch at the Canterbury Festival and Worcestershire bowled them out for 106 to win by 192 runs. They were set 301 to win in a minimum of 84 overs and the game was up at lunch when they were 83 for five.

Lampitt, who finished the match with two wickets in two balls. Afterwards Daryl Foster, the Kent coach, did his vain best to sound cheery. "We had the worst of the pitch but we are playing at home so we can't complain. We didn't play particularly well but this is our first championship defeat. It's a blip but it's by no means terminal. The team who won the toss here was going to win the game. Now we will have to regroup."

Lampitt took them to 207 in 40 minutes before the declaration. Kent's miserable response started with a run-out. David Fulton played the ball to Tim Curtis at extra-cover and set off for the single, only to be sent back back by Matthew Walker. He failed to make it. Two balls later Rhodes dived in front of first slip to catch Walker off Tom Moody.



Fleeting Fleming... but the Kent batsman survived this Sheryar delivery

Caddick keeps a straight face

David Foot on the taciturn bowler who has gained a Test recall for his pains

ANDREW CADDICK, restored to the England Test team this week, is someone who by nature masks his emotions. The defensive eyes tell little, his responses are inclined to be laconic. But that flicker of a smile at the pleasure of his recall conveys a volume of personal resolve. At times he has felt wronged by the public image that he has partially created himself by not always going out of his way to endear himself to those who write about him.

Championship matches in 1994 and played only six last summer. There was a growing belief that the New Zealand-born player's career might be over. The media pondered how best to give him renewed hope and the surgical processes were documented with Lancet-like zeal. The shin-split operation involved five holes being drilled in each leg to assist bone growth over the muscle. Yet, when he reported for pre-season training in the spring of '95, the pain returned. This time the trouble was attributed to the forming of blood clots in his shins.

Leicestershire v Northamptonshire

Maddy holds up for first century

David Foot at Grace Road MAIDEN championship hundred has to be a matter for celebration. Darren Maddy, a conscientious if novice opener for Leicestershire this season, lifted his bat high, pulled off his helmet and beamed. This would be something to tell his grandchildren. In such a romantic vein it seems mean-spirited to report that Maddy's innings was in no sense really memorable, though it happened on the day his county went top of the championship.

clearly in no mood to take risks. Home draws — any draws — are no longer the valued prerogative of the football pools punters. The declaration came at 288 for seven, leaving the visitors a target of 295 off at least 69 overs. They finished on 212 for five. Leicestershire had gone on until after lunch. In that time Nixon and Smith were both run out. Maddy was on 89 at the interval; his previous highest in the championship had been 68 in the last match, although he scored a century against Oxford University last year. Those who know him best say he likes to go for his shots and the inhibitions of opening must not be allowed to get to him.

Mujtaba delays tourists as he plays for place

Tom Wellock at Chester-le-Street WHILE most of the Pakistanis were in a hurry to head south for Leeds, Asif Mujtaba yesterday took the slow lane towards a possible berth in their side for the second Test. Mujtaba, who could play at Headingley if Asimir Sohal has not recovered from the hand injury he suffered in the first Test, batted throughout the Pakistanis' second innings. He was largely responsible for Cham's taking as much as 26.3 overs to achieve their target of 184 for a seven-wicket win. He made only 19 not out, an improvement on his duck in the first innings. The fact that anything short tended to fly over the little left-hander's head may have contributed to his circumspection and the Pakistanis will be glad to have got away from the Riverside Ground with no more casualties. The Man of the Match award came down to a choice between the rival captains. Wasim Akram took two more wickets in the morning to polish off Durham for 185 and finish with four for 19 to add to his three wickets in the first innings. He was also his side's top scorer with 88. But the award went to Mike Roseberry, who defied a broken finger to make 93 not out and 48.

Scoreboard

Table with multiple columns showing cricket scores for various matches including Kent v Worcestershire, Leicestershire v Northamptonshire, and others.

Gibson propels Notts to defeat

Ottis Gibson and Neil Kendrick bowled Glamorgan towards an eight-wicket victory over Nottinghamshire at Workstop, insinuating a collapse in which the home side lost five wickets for nine runs after Chris Cairns had hit a blistering 70. Nottinghamshire were eventually dismissed for 241, leaving Glamorgan to score 124 to win. Hugh Morris (71) was dismissed with his side needing two.

Rugby League

Hull looking for a lift into Super League

Paul Fitzpatrick HULL, one of the most successful and best supported clubs of the late Seventies and early Eighties, are hoping to be "fast-tracked" into Super League next season. Their application would carry additional weight against possible rival submissions from Keighley, Huddersfield and Featherstone if they were to finish runners-up to Salford, who look certain to win the First Division. But even if Hull fail to finish that high — they will withdraw their bid if they finish lower than fourth, which

is where they lie now — their application will carry many persuasive arguments. Their Boulevard stadium has been used for international games and meets the standards laid down in the "Framing the Future" policy document; and their geographical position, 80 miles from the nearest Super League club and in a big and passionate rugby league city, could be a vote winner. Hull are successful if they would bring the number of Super League clubs for 1997 to 14, possibly the ideal figure. South Wales, currently in the Second Division, were "fast-tracked" into the Super League last month.

Allan Mason, Hull's chairman, said: "With the increasing desire to play more competitive matches in the Super League, Hull FC wish to make their bid based on merit. "Historical contributions, facilities and strategic geographical significance qualify Hull FC's bid, based on fitness and achievement." Hull hosts its first international tonight against Great Britain played Australia in Edinburgh in 1911 — a game watched by 6,000. There are unlikely to be that many tonight when Scotland and Ireland, who met for the first time in Dublin in 1901, play at Pirell Park, home of soccer's Partick Thistle.

Team talk

Table for the latest Transfer News with columns for clubs and player movements.

Sport section header and logo for The Guardian.



The last words from Atlanta, page 13  
Wednesday lose Lombardo, page 14

How the USPGA emasculated Valhalla, page 15  
Leicestershire creep to the top, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## Twickenham move to save Five Nations

David Plummer reports on a last-minute compromise by England that could satisfy the other home unions and France

**A** COMPROMISE by England last night appeared to have saved them from being thrown out of rugby's Five Nations Championship. France, Wales, Ireland and Scotland were meeting at a secret London address to consider Twickenham's latest offer and will give England their verdict today but the signs were that the long-standing tournament would not be coming to an end.

Ever since the Rugby Football Union last April announced its intention to seek its own television deal for the championship, leaks have abounded from the four home unions but everyone was remaining tight-lipped in advance of last night's meeting, which was called following the six-hour gathering of the RFU's executive committee last Wednesday.

England are believed to have made concessions on the two major sticking points: the division of television money and the broadcasting of the tournament on terrestrial television.

When Twickenham's representatives met the other unions last month in Cardiff and London the meetings broke up in acrimony because the English believed the others would be appeased by a more equal share-out of the \$184 million Sky had offered the four unions: England had agreed a deal worth \$97.5 million.

The other three unions (Wales were offered £40.5 mil-

lion, Ireland and Scotland £28 million each) made it clear they were not prepared to entertain an exclusive Sky deal. It is understood Twickenham's compromise formula allows a terrestrial station 50-50 access, which would probably mean Sky showing one match on a championship weekend live and BBC or ITV screening the other.

England, who were surprised at both the uncompromising stand taken by their three partners and their solidarity in the face of financial inducements, have also backed down on the division of the television cash but they will still get more than the others because they are free to sell their club fixtures and other internationals at Twickenham to the highest bidder, Sky.

England are looking to play South Africa, Australia and New Zealand but South Africa yesterday ridiculed suggestions of a three-nation tournament between them, England and France.

Sky's original offer was for five years, though Ireland, Scotland and Wales regarded that as too long with the cable revolution and digital television imminent. They were looking for a three-year agreement, four at the most.

The four unions stand to make around \$2 million a year each from the new contract compared to the current \$2.25 million, with England set to make another 60 per cent on top and Wales around 40 per cent.

"England have come a long

way from their original position and for the first time in this dispute there is something concrete to talk about," said one Five Nations source.

"The goal-posts have moved to such an extent that all four countries stand to make a lot of money from the new deal. England now seem to accept that, while they have been the undisputed European champions this decade, they are not bigger than the tournament."

France were involved in last night's meeting even though they have a television contract of their own. That ends in three years, from when the French have pledged to throw their cash into the kitty for the total pot to be split equally five ways.

With sponsors also being sought for the tournament, it is likely that in the seasons to come there will be an element of merit money, with the champions getting the most and the wooden-spoon holders the least.

The row has highlighted the split not only among the four home unions but within Twickenham itself. Their delegates at last month's meetings in Cardiff and London fell out among themselves but it appears that the doves who opposed the Sky deal have triumphed over the hawks who negotiated it.

The RFU will be told of the meeting's outcome today though any deal would have to be ratified by the general committees of the unions concerned.

■ Martin O'Han re-launched his rugby union career after nine years when he joined Bedford on a four-year contract hours after making his debut with rugby league's London Broncos. Jeff Probyn and Mike Rayer have also joined the League Two club.

### COWES WEEK SET FAIR WITH WIND IN ITS SAILS



Silent running on the right tack... with a strong breeze to put power in their sails, competitors in the Contessa 32 class make brisk progress off the Isle of Wight yesterday in a closely contested race at the annual yachting jamboree. PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN MUNDAY

## Newcastle gripped by Shearer frenzy

**Michael Walker**

**A**LAN SHEARER will bring Newcastle to a standstill when he makes his first appearance at St James' Park today.

Up to 20,000 supporters are likely to clog the city centre in the hope of getting a glimpse of the world's most expensive footballer. However, they will not be allowed inside

the ground. Instead the club has fixed up a huge Tannoy system to relay Shearer's press conference interview to the thousands waiting outside. "With the factory holiday it's going to be frenzied but we are making plans with police to keep things moving," said a club spokesman.

"We are providing entertainment to keep fans amused and Shearer will come out to greet them

after his media interviews. It's a huge operation because there hasn't been a signing like this in the club's history."

Shearer's arrival will be beamed across the world and Northumbria Police have made special provision to deal with the unprecedented public interest. Shearer-frenzy caused fans to queue around the ground for additional tickets for Sunday's Charity

Shield game with Manchester United - scheduled to be the striker's first appearance in a black and white No. 9 shirt.

Meanwhile hundreds of supporters were at Newcastle airport yesterday to welcome Keegan's squad home from the club's pre-season Far East tour. Shearer had flown in 24 hours earlier to prepare for his big day.

**Are you still making pointless purchases?**

**What's the point?**

Don't let valuable rewards slip through your fingers. You can gain Membership Rewards Points on virtually every purchase you make with an American Express Credit, Charge or Corporate Card - whether you're shopping in the High Street or spending abroad. Once you're enrolled, it's one of the fastest and easiest ways to earn complimentary flights, hotel nights, meals at restaurants and more.

**To find out how we can help you do more, call now:**  
**0800 700 767**

Cards

American Express Services Europe Limited, Reg. Office, Portland House, 1 Stag Place, London SW1E 5RL, Reg. No. 1835139

**Guardian Crossword No 20,724**  
Set by Fawley

**Across**

- 1,5 A hazy authority for regular training? (6,6)
- 8 Dismissal objection, showing old-fashioned brass? (7)
- 9 Europe's caught by small disapproval? (7)
- 11 Local branch hostile about new, detailed references? (7,3,5)
- 12 Cause a shock, turning crazy? (4)
- 13 Express needs someone to supply information for growth? (5,5)
- 17 Suffering after long ride, goes off, singly about it (5-4)
- 18 Opportunity to back Othello, perhaps? (4)
- 20 Valuable support offered at end of appointment (5,3)
- 23 Soldier in line about to make a mistake? (7)

**Down**

- 2 Held by a marvellous spell - (5)
- 3 - but duck is broken suddenly, when scoring (5)
- 4 No rise? Debts to be paid? It's familiar, unfortunately - (5)
- 5 - Mike's stony broket (5)
- 6 Split accentuated by bust-up, perhaps - (8)
- 7 - composer's given furious glare (5)
- 8 Instant sign of boredom? Time for a look at the future (5,5)
- 10 He may take responsibility if the Ashes are lost (4,7)

**14** Rich Uncle (old, not posh) wasted an account? (9)

**15** Love having a party - make allowances? (5)

**16** Very short of ships in Grimsby, at first (8)

**19** Type of nucleus is more unstable (5)

**21** Film star has role that's different and new (5)

**22** Is it right to interrupt this outrageous modern artist? (5)

**Solution tomorrow**

**23** Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0841 234 234. Call cost 30p per min, cheap rates, 40p per min at all other times. Service supplied by AT&T

**G2 page 12**

Dunblair the reck



Woman in

Inside

سكانة البحر